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UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

January 1994

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Governors endorse Salmon Strategy

At an historic meeting in Spokane, the Governors of Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana said the Council's Strategy for Salmon should be implemented immediately, and they insisted on a greater role for states in developing recovery plans for endangered species in the Northwest.

This was the first time in over a decade that the Governors of the four states have met to discuss common issues. Each Governor appoints two members to the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Host Governor Mike Lowry of Washington, Idaho's Governor Cecil Andrus, Governor Barbara Roberts of Oregon and Governor Marc Racicot of Montana were briefed by Council members and staff on recovery efforts under way for Columbia River Basin salmon and proposed organizational changes at Bonneville Power Administration.

Council staff compared for the Governors the Council's Strategy for Salmon, adopted in 1992, and the National Marine Fisheries Service Recovery Team's draft plan for Snake River salmon which was released in October. It could be more than a year before a final NMFS recovery plan is done.

"Everyone who is benefiting from the Columbia River system is going to have to give something back," Council Chair Ted Bottiger told the Governors. "We want to do this without putting any one industry out of business." After a working lunch, the Governors released a joint statement and met with reporters where they made four major points.

- They strongly support the Council's Strategy for Salmon and urge immediate implementation.
- They insist that federal agencies open the formal Endangered Species Act consultation process to the states through the Northwest Power Planning Council, and want the Council to represent the states in those proceedings.
- They directed the Council to hold public hearings and workshops throughout the region to examine Bonneville's changing role, assess the implications for the region and explore possible alternatives. The Governors want the hearings completed by February 15.
- They said they will meet twice a year to discuss common problems and asked that their next meeting be scheduled for summer 1994.

"We support and call for the implementation of the Council's Strategy for Salmon. We stand very strongly behind it and are going to be working hard for that."
—Governor Mike Lowry

Left to right: Governor Cecil Andrus, Idaho; Governor Mike Lowry, Washington; Governor Marc Racicot, Montana; and Governor Barbara Roberts, Oregon; met in Spokane, Washington to discuss Council issues.

Council offices will be closed Monday, January 17 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Council to hold hearings on Bonneville incorporation

The Bonneville Power Administration is reinventing itself through its Competitiveness Project. This project is designed to move Bonneville from a traditional government agency to one that is more businesslike and offers greater value to the Pacific Northwest. Draft legislation has been prepared that could change Bonneville to a federal corporation. For a copy of the draft legislation and the Council issue paper regarding the proposal (document 93-25), call the Council central office.

Hearings on the proposed corporation will be held by the Council as follows:

January 12, 1994 Boise Centre on the Grove, 850 W. Front St., Boise, Idaho; 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

January 27, 1994 Council central offices, 851 S.W. Sixth Avenue, Suite 1100, Portland, Oregon (time to be announced).

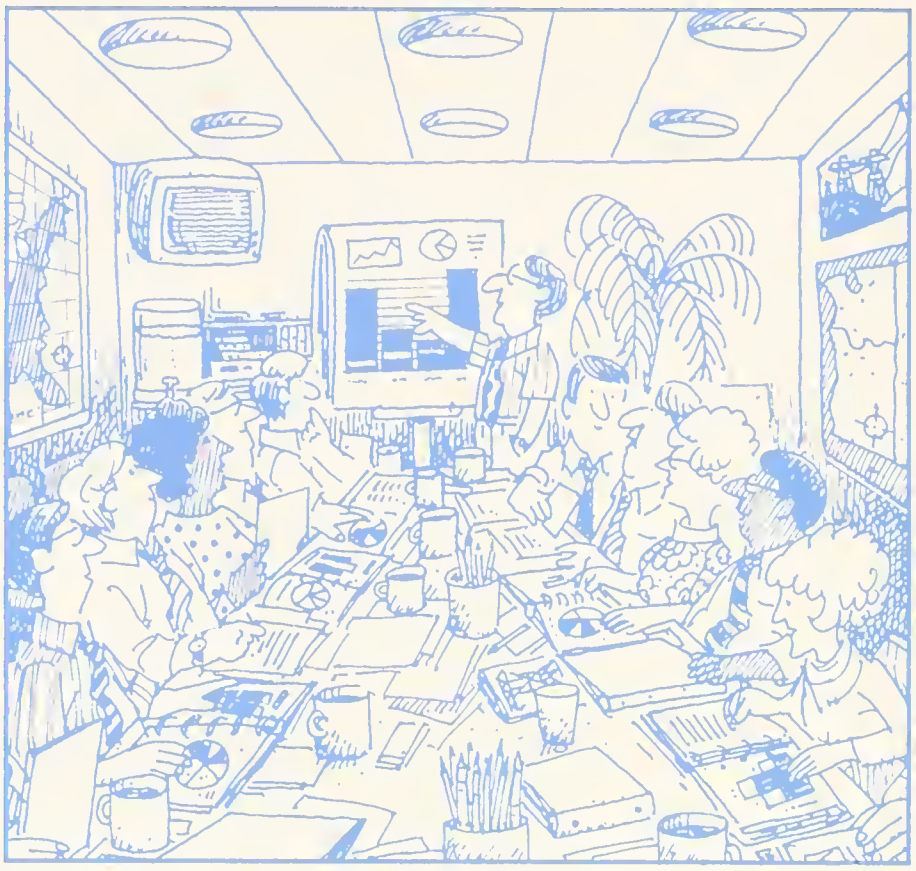
Hearings on the proposed corporation will be held by Bonneville as follows:

January 10, 1994 Alpine Ballroom, Seattle Airport Hilton, 17620 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, Washington; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

January 11, 1994 City Council Chambers, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Washington; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

January 13, 1994 City Council Chambers, 435 Ryman, Missoula, Montana; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If you wish to be put on a mailing list to receive notification of possible future Council hearings, please call the Council central office.



Public meetings set on Comprehensive Environmental Analysis

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has funded a contract with the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority to review the interaction and impact of fish hatcheries on naturally spawning anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin.

Public meetings where further information can be obtained or comment on the direction and content of the project can be given are as follows:

January 31 Red Lion Hotel, Astoria, Oregon, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

February 2 Centre on the Grove, Boise, Idaho, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

February 3 Red Lion Hotel, [illegible] Richland, Washington, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

February 7 Red Lion Hotel Downtown, Portland, Oregon, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

For further information contact Roy Sampsel, 206-665-6051 or 503-248-4020.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #203

Centre on the Grove
Boise, Idaho
January 12-13, 1994
8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 12

1. 8:30 - 9 a.m. **Opening statements and committee reports.**
2. 9 - 9:15 a.m. **Council decision on the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program:** Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; and fish and wildlife division staff.
3. 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. **Council discussion on flow survival hypothesis:** Rick Applegate; and Chip McConnaha, systems ecologist.
4. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Status report by the Snake River Drawdown Committee:** Council member Bob Saxvik; Jim Ruff, Council staff hydrologist; Witt Anderson, Corps of Engineers; and Phil Thor, Bonneville Power Administration.
5. 1:30 - 3 p.m. **Presentation of state fishery agencies and tribal comments on National Marine Fisheries Service Recovery Team draft recommendations:** Participants to be announced.
6. 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Public hearing on the proposed Bonneville Power Corporation.**
   7:00 p.m. **Continuation of public hearing on the proposed Bonneville Power Corporation (evening session).**

Thursday, January 13

7. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Staff presentation of issue paper on restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the Northwest Power Act:** Dick Watson, director, power planning division; Jeff King, senior resource analyst; and Margie Gardner, conservation analyst.
8. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. **Staff presentation on Bonneville Power Administration's marketing strategy:** Dick Watson; and Wally Gibson, manager, system analysis and generation.
9. 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. **Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan:** If appropriate, the Council may vote to take actions to further implementation of particular measures: Ed Sheets; Rick Applegate; Dick Watson; and Doug Marker, planning associate.
10. 11:15 - 11:30 a.m. **Council business**
    —Approval of contract to review planning and implementation processes.
    —Approval of minutes.

Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows.
The times listed for specified agenda items, and the other of those items, are approximate and are subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, Council meetings are open to the public.
The Council will hold an executive session to consider matters protectible under the civil litigation and/or premature disclosure exceptions.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: January 12-13, 1994, in Boise, Idaho; February 8-10, 1994, in Washington.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: February 7 at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: Call the Council central office for date, time and location.

Council retreat: The Council will hold an executive session for the purpose of a Council retreat to discuss Council organization, structure, procedure and/or personnel matters on January 11, at 11 a.m. at the Statehouse Inn in Boise, Idaho.

Council working session and committee meetings: The Power Committee will meet Thursday, January 6, at 1 p.m. in the conference room in the Spokane Airport in Spokane, Washington.

The Fish Committee will meet on January 26; the Council work session and hearing on the Bonneville Corporation proposal will be on January 27; and the Power Committee will meet on January 28. All meetings will be at the Council central office in Portland, Oregon.

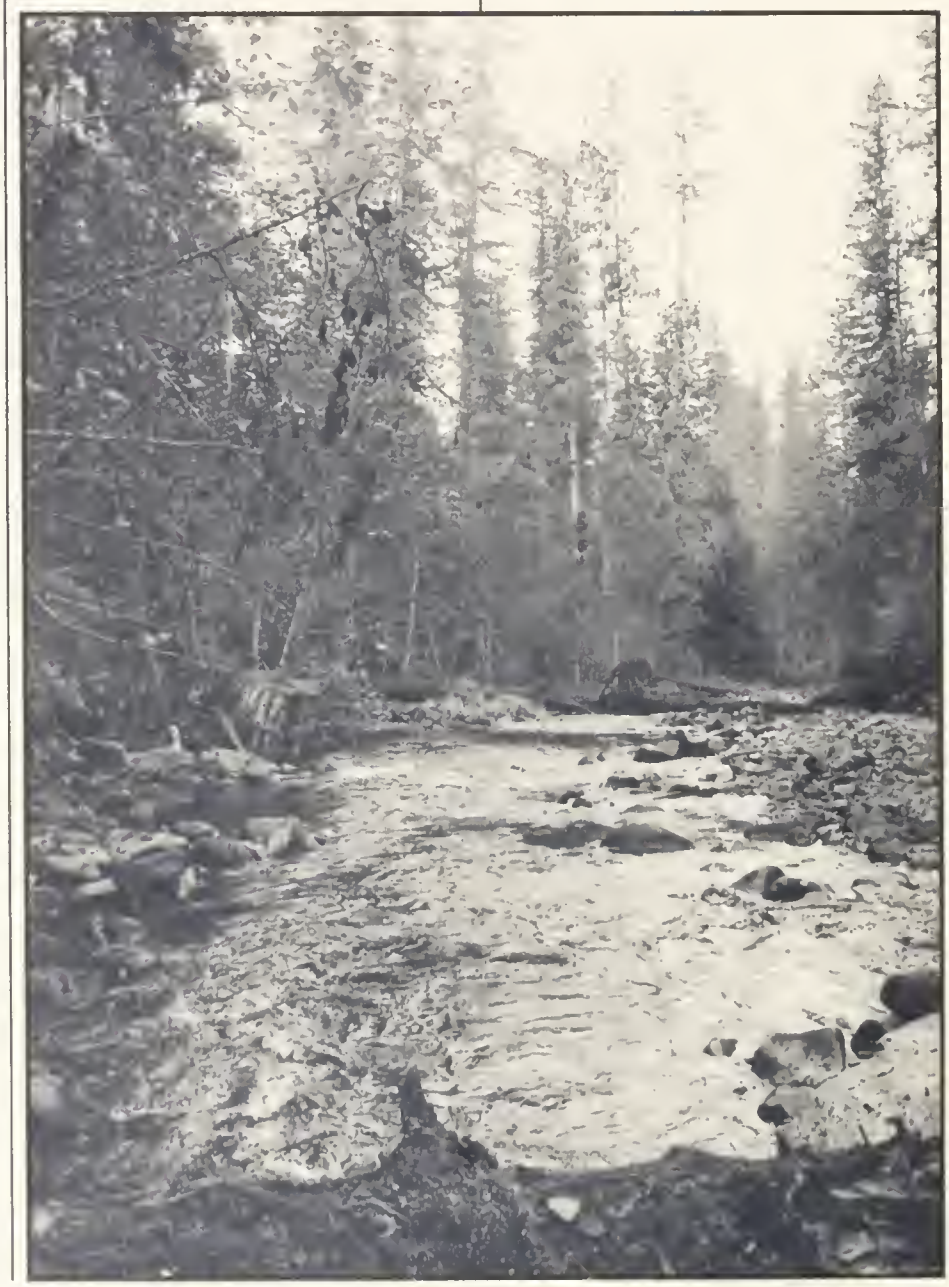
Natural Gas Advisory Committee: Call the Council's central office for date, time and location.

Idaho Rivers Symposium set for March 18-19, 1994

"Rivers at the Crossroads: Law, Science, Politics & People," will be held at the Red Lion Riverside in Boise, Idaho, March 18-19, 1994.

The symposium will focus on the emerging concepts and issues related to ecosystem management, public water and public trust.

Registration fee for the symposium is $125. The cut-off date for registration is February 11, 1994. For more information contact Marti Bridges, 208-343-7481.



Synopsis of December Council meeting

Energy conservation ought to remain a solid investment in providing reliable energy at the lowest cost, energy experts said at the Northwest Power Planning Council's December meeting in Portland.

However, the electricity business is becoming increasingly competitive, and as competition changes the business climate, utilities will be challenged to offer all of their energy services, including conservation, at the lowest possible cost, the experts said.

"I think the question for the region is whether electric utilities can continue to acquire energy efficiency — conservation — in the same ways that have been employed since the early 1980s," Council Chair Ted Bottiger of Washington said. "Frankly, there appear to be more efficient and effective ways to secure these savings."

Energy conservation programs have been successful in the Northwest, Bottiger said. He noted that the region's utilities saved 475 megawatts in the decade following passage of the Northwest Power Act in 1980. Conservation freed electricity that can be used for other purposes. These programs cost one-half as much as new generating plants. The Council's 1991 Northwest Power Plan called on the region to conserve 1,500 megawatts of electricity — enough for nearly 1 million people — by the year 2000.

Conservation is being acquired in other ways, too. Oregon, Washington, and several local governments in Idaho also have adopted energy codes for new residential and commercial buildings that are among the most rigorous in the nation and will conserve hundreds of megawatts over time. In Washington, an association of nine small public utility districts formed their own association, called Conservation and Renewable Energy Systems, to pursue energy conservation projects.

> "I think the question for the region is whether electric utilities can continue to acquire energy efficiency —conservation— in the same ways that have been employed since the early 1980s."
>
> Council Chair Ted Bottiger

At the Portland meeting, the Council heard from representatives of the Bonneville Power Administration, Tacoma (Washington) Public Utilities and Portland General Electric. These officials agreed that the marketplace for energy services traditionally offered by utilities is changing. Non-utility businesses are entering the marketplace with products ranging from home weatherization to complete power plants. If utilities want to keep their customers, they will have to compete effectively in this expanding marketplace, the officials said.

The Council also has explored these issues. Bottiger said the Council believes that one promising strategy for utilities is to forge business partnerships with manufacturers and designers of products that use electricity. For example, utilities could help finance the design and production of energy-efficient refrigerators, air conditioners, water heaters and so on.

"To help meet our conservation goals, the next generation of conservation policies and programs must focus on transforming entire market segments," Bottiger said.

At Portland the Council also discussed the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, which includes all of the amendments adopted by the Council since the 1987 fish and wildlife program. The Council will consider final approval of the 1994 program at its January meeting in Boise.

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Comment deadline extended:

Acquiring energy efficiency more efficiently (93-23): **January 14, 1994.**

UPDATE

Executive Director: Ed Sheets
Public Affairs Director: Steve Crow
Editor: Judi Hertz
Art Director: Stephen Sasser

Update is printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper that is 40 percent de-inked fiber, including 8 percent post-consumer waste

Publications available

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NOTE: When requesting a publication, please use the publication number.

(93-25) Bonneville Power Administration Corporation Proposal.

(93-24) Comparison of methods to increase water velocities in the Columbia River.

(93-23) Acquiring energy efficiency more efficiently.

(93-22) Review of information pertaining to the effect of water velocity on the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin.

(93-21) Response to comments on the Phase 4 amendments to the 1987 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(93-20) Final Phase 4 amendments to the 1987 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(93-19) Hungry Horse Dam Fisheries Mitigation Implementation Plan.

(93-17) 1993 Directory of Organizations.

(93-16) Transcript of utility panel presentation at August 1993 Council meeting.

(93-15) 1993 Annual Report.

(93-12) Tenaska Washington II generating project: Consistency with the 1991 Northwest Conservation and Electric Power Plan.

(93-11) Commercial and industrial energy efficiency: Profiles of 1992 Northwest electric utility programs.

(93-6) Draft 1993 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

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Volume 11, Number 2

UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

February 1994

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Bonneville Corporation hearings continue

Bonneville Power Administration's proposal to become more efficient and competitive won widespread support around the Northwest in January. But parts of the draft legislation that would change Bonneville to a federal corporation must be rewritten, many commentors said at public hearings conducted by the Council and Bonneville.

At the request of Northwest Governors, the Council conducted hearings on the proposal in Boise and Portland, and will hold another hearing in Seattle on February 9 and 10. Bonneville conducted hearings in Seattle, Spokane and Missoula.

By moving from a traditional federal agency to a federal corporation, Bonneville hopes to become more businesslike and competitive.

"I'm not here to tell the Northwest region how to do its business," said Deputy Secretary of Energy Bill White, who presided at the Seattle and Spokane hearings. "I'm a public servant who is trying to do what I can do to get the federal government off the back of those people who are trying to generate and conserve energy and protect fish and wildlife in the Northwest."

Bonneville Administrator Randy Hardy said competitiveness is at the heart of the proposed change.

"The intent of the legislation is not to alter the laws that affect us, such as the Northwest Power Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and others," Hardy said. "The focus is on removing administrative oversight of federal agencies such as the Department of Energy and the Office of Management and Budget. The intent is to eliminate the bureaucratic red tape that at best adds no value to our business and at worst gets in the way."

At the January hearings, which were well-attended, certain themes emerged in public testimony:

- While the *concept* of Bonneville incorporation is a good one, the legislation must focus on encouraging efficiencies and competitiveness. It should not change Bonneville's key responsibilities under existing law.

- Some commentors said Bonneville is proceeding too quickly with the legislation, which was released for public comment on December 20, 1993. There hasn't been enough time to read, analyze and prepare comments on legislation that would set in motion such a major change, these commentors said.

- Bonneville needs to involve the public more in decision-making — not just in the future as a federal corporation, but *now* in drafting this legislation. One commentor, Bob Rowe, a member of the Montana Public Service Commission, suggested Bonneville convene a meeting of key policymakers from states, tribes and federal agencies to write the next draft of the legislation. Others, including Ralph Cavanagh of the Natural Resources Defense Council, agreed that the region should achieve consensus on draft legislation before it is introduced in Congress.

- If Bonneville incorporates, the new corporation should allow public scrutiny of its budget before it is submitted to the Department of Energy each year. It also was suggested that the Council be given authority to approve the budget before it is submitted.

- In the draft legislation, the chief executive officer of the Bonneville Corporation would be appointed by the Secretary of Energy. This is how Bonneville's administrator currently is appointed. Many utility and industry commentors said the chief executive of an incorporated Bonneville should be appointed by the President from a list of names submitted by the Secretary of Energy. They believe this could increase the region's influence in the appointment. In addition, many commentors said the chief executive officer should be subject to policy guidance from the Secretary of Energy only on national energy matters.

- Finally, many commentors said they were concerned that the draft legislation proposes to exempt the Bonneville corporation from parts of certain federal laws, such as the Freedom of Information Act and the whistleblower's law. The legislation proposes that Bonneville could decide to withhold information that it determines would harm the corporation's "legitimate commercial interests or those of a third party." In general, commentors said that is too broad and that Bonneville should not have such sweeping authority to determine what information it will withhold from disclosure. The draft legislation also proposes to exempt the corporation from certain parts of federal Civil Service law, including the so-called "whistleblower" provision that protects employees who question policies or practices of the agency.

Council offices will be closed Monday, February 21, in observance of Presidents' Day.

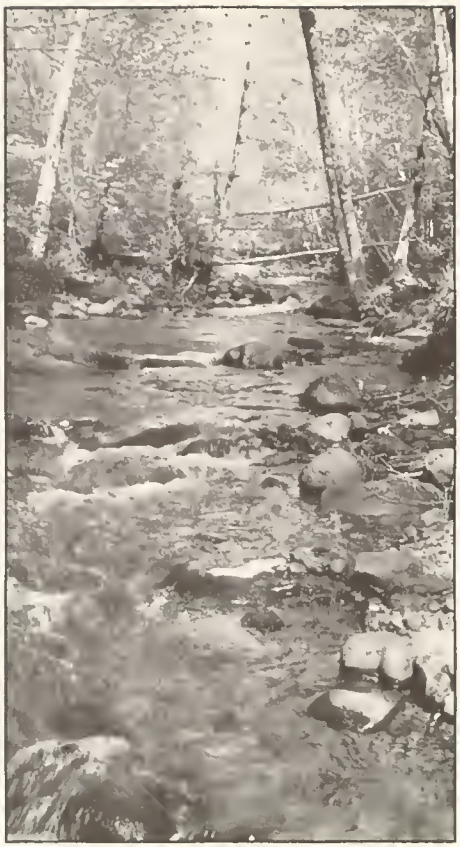
Synopsis of January Council Meeting

At its January Council meeting in Boise, Idaho, the Northwest Power Planning Council formally adopted its 1994 Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The final program integrates into a single document amendments previously adopted, such as the Strategy for Salmon and the resident fish and wildlife amendments. For the past year, the Council has been working on several measures to help mitigate the damage done by the federal hydropower system to resident fish and wildlife populations throughout the Columbia River Basin. Unlike salmon and steelhead, resident fish are those which do not migrate to the ocean. Currently the new program is available in typescript. Printed copies of the program, with minor editorial revisions, are expected to be available in April.

Also in Boise, the Council heard from a panel of state and tribal fishery experts who generally supported the Council's Strategy for Salmon over the draft plan written by the National Marine Fisheries Service recovery team to restore Snake River salmon.

"The states, tribes, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conclude that creating better downriver migration conditions and leaving the fish in the river is the better fork in the road," said Steve Huffaker, fisheries bureau chief for the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

The NMFS draft recovery plan says that improved barging techniques are the best immediate tactic for successfully moving more young salmon down the river to the ocean. The Council's Strategy for Salmon calls



for improved barging, but also directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bonneville Power Administration to evaluate and prepare for additional mainstem survival improvements -- including drawdown, additional storage projects, water use efficiencies and power operator changes -- which would be implemented unless found to be biologically unsound, economically infeasible or inconsistent with the Northwest Power Act.

Participating on the panel by telephone, an Oregon fisheries official said his department is more comfortable with the Council's plan to explore both transportation and in-river actions.

Washington Department of Fisheries Director Bob Turner said the recovery team's suggestions shouldn't be rejected outright because seven years of drought had complicated all attempts to rebuild the dwindling salmon runs.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: **February 8-10** at the Stouffer Madison Hotel in Seattle, Washington; **March 9-10** at the Park Plaza Hotel in Helena, Montana; **April 12-14** at the Erb Memorial Student Union in Eugene, Oregon.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: **February 7** at the SeaTac Marriott in Seattle, Washington, 9 a.m.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: Call the central office for date, time and location.

Council working session and committee meetings: The fish and power committees will meet in the afternoon on February 23, and the working session will be on February 24 at the Council central office in Portland, Oregon. Call the central office for further information.

A workshop on flow survival, water velocity and juvenile salmonid survival in the Columbia River will be held February 22 and the morning of February 23 at the Hilton Hotel in Portland. Call the central office for further information.

Natural Gas Advisory Committee: Call the Council's central office for date, time and location.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #204

Stouffer Madison Hotel
515 Madison
Seattle, Washington
206 583-0300
February 8-10, 1994

Tuesday, February 8, 1994

1.	1-1:30 p.m.	**Opening statements and committee reports.**
2.	1:30-2:30	**Presentation on the effect of Bonneville Power Administration's proposed Marketing Plan on Utility Conservation Programs:** Marc Sullivan, Seattle City Light; and Robert C. Olsen, Commissioner, Mason County PUD #3.
3.	2:45-3:45 p.m.	**Panel on issue paper: Direct use of natural gas: analysis and policy options:** Participants to be announced.
4.	4 - 5 p.m.	**Staff presentation on issue paper on scope and outreach of the power plan:** Dick Watson, director, power planning division; and Steve Crow, director, public affairs division.

Wednesday, February 9, 1994

5.	8:30-9:30 a.m.	**Staff presentation on annual salmon implementation report:** Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; and Doug Marker, planning associate.
6.	9:45-10:30 a.m.	**Staff presentation on independent scientific evaluation:** Rick Applegate; Doug Marker; and Chip McConnaha, systems ecologist.
7.	10:30-11:30 a.m.	**Presentation on Project Green:** Steve Hulbert.
8.	1:30-2:30 p.m.	**Staff presentation on fish and wildlife division work plan:** Rick Applegate; and Peter Paquet, wildlife coordinator.
9.	2:30-3 p.m.	**Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan:** If appropriate, the Council may vote to take actions to further implementation of particular measures: Edward Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate; Dick Watson; and Doug Marker.
10.	3-3:30 p.m.	**Staff presentation on Council Fiscal Year 1996 and Fiscal Year 1995 revised budget process:** Edward Sheets; and Jim Tanner, administrative officer.
11.	3:45-4 p.m.	**Council business** — Adoption of minutes
12.	7 p.m.	**Public hearing on the proposed Bonneville Power Corporation.**

Thursday, February 10

9 a.m.	**Continuation of public hearing on the proposed Bonneville Power Corporation.**

Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows.
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Comment deadines

Draft issue paper: Independent resource acquisition: implications and options for the region: **March 10, 1994.**

Draft issue paper: Direct use of natural gas: analysis and policy options: **March 15, 1994.**

Restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the goals of the Northwest Power Act: **April 1, 1994.**

UPDATE

Executive Director Ed Sheets
Public Affairs Director: Steve Crow
Editor Judi Hertz
Art Director Stephen Sasser

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(94-5) Draft issue paper: Independent resource acquisition: implications and options for the region.

(94-4) Restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the goals of the Northwest Power Act.

(94-3) Draft issue paper: Direct use of natural gas: analysis and policy options.

(94-2) ♦ 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (printed version expected to be available in April).

(94-1) ♦ 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Overview.

(93-25) Bonneville Power Administration Corporation Proposal.

(93-24) Comparison of methods to increase water velocities in the Columbia River.

(93-23) Acquiring energy efficiency more efficiently.

(93-21) Response to comments on the Phase 4 amendments to the 1987 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(93-20) Final Phase 4 amendments to the 1987 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(93-17) 1993 Directory of Organizations.

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Volume 11, Number 3

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Northwest Power Planning Council

March 1994

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Governor Lowry appoints Casavant to Council

Governor Mike Lowry of Washington appointed Ken Casavant to replace Tom Trulove as the eastern Washington member of the Council.

Casavant, 51, is a professor of agriculture economics at Washington State University. "Ken has a strong understanding of how the Columbia River Basin serves as the lifeline for transportation, agriculture, energy and wildlife in the Pacific Northwest," Lowry said. "He'll make sure the state's economic and natural resources are protected."

Casavant served four years on the Pullman City Council, was precinct chairman of the Democratic Party and president of the Pullman Chamber of Commerce. He also helped design the transit system in Pullman and serves on the board of the Moscow-Pullman Airport and on the steering committee for the Washington State Transportation Plan.

Ken Casavant

Strategy for Salmon

PROGRESS REVIEW II

Accelerating Our Efforts To Bring Back The Salmon

Senator Hatfield to address Council salmon strategy review

On March 30, the Council will sponsor the second annual progress review of the Council Strategy for Salmon at the Hilton Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Senator Mark O. Hatfield will be the keynote speaker at the meeting.

In 1992, with the encouragement of the Governors and the Congressional delegations of the four Pacific Northwest states, the Council voted to expand and accelerate the region's effort to save dwindling salmon runs. Leaders of federal and state agencies, Indian tribes and utilities, who share the responsibility for implementing the program, have been asked to report on their recent work—both their successes and activities that are behind schedule.

This will be an all-day problem solving session, bringing together the people who can make the changes needed to rebuild our salmon runs. The Council's goals are to recognize progress, renew commitment, accelerate implementation and address problems.

For further information, call the Council's central office at 800-222-3355.

Bonneville revises corporation legislation

The Bonneville Power Administration intends to revise its draft legislation that would change the federal agency to a federal corporation, Deputy Administrator Jack Robertson told the Northwest Power Planning Council in February.

Speaking at the Council's February 23 meeting, Robertson said regional concerns over some components of the first draft of the legislation, released by Bonneville last December, would be addressed in the new draft. He said he hopes the new draft will be completed in April.

Bonneville is working with the Council and regional interests to write a bill that improves Bonneville's administrative efficiency but retains the agency's responsibilities regarding electric power transmission, fish and wildlife protection and energy conservation. The December draft bill was widely criticized for the sweeping changes it proposed, including exempting the new corporation from a number of federal laws.

"We have to do a much better job [in the new bill] of focusing on administrative efficiencies and nothing more," Robertson said. "My key objective is to write a bill that achieves regional consensus."

The Council supports improved administrative efficiencies at Bonneville, which are proposed primarily in the areas of personnel, contracting, commercial litigation and accounting.

Synopsis of February Council meetings

February 8-10, Seattle

Fish and wildlife implementation

At its February 8-10 meeting in Seattle, the Northwest Power Planning Council said significant achievements were made last year to restore declining salmon runs in the Columbia River Basin, but there are many areas where work must be accelerated.

A staff report on the 1993 implementation of the Council's Strategy for Salmon said more water from Columbia River reservoirs was provided for fish flows in 1992 and 1993. A temporary exemption in Idaho state water laws that allowed more Snake River water to be used for salmon flows will expire this year, the report warned.

Council members expressed concern that there are still hundreds of unscreened or inadequately screened irrigation ditches throughout the Columbia River system, and that the proposed federal budget eliminates funding for many screening projects next year.

Harvest rates for fall chinook salmon have been reduced below the 55 percent limit called for in the Strategy for Salmon, and salmon runs appear so low this year that harvest levels in 1994 could be reduced even further.

Cooperative partnerships to improve fish habitat in specific model watersheds were established in Washington, Oregon and Idaho in 1993.

The fish and wildlife program implementation report will be the basis for a regionwide meeting March 30 at the Portland, Oregon, Hilton Hotel when executives from federal and state implementing agencies will report to the Council on their progress and the problems they're having with the Strategy for Salmon.

Power issues

The Council approved an informal outreach effort as part of preparation for the next power plan, now scheduled for completion in 1995. The Council's power division has prepared a scoping paper which proposes issues and an approach for the next power plan. Because of increased competition and deregulation in the electric utility industry and new technology developments, the power division expects the next power plan to differ substantially from former plans. In the next two months, Council members and staff will visit many utility, industry and interest groups in the region to get their opinions on the issues which should be addressed in the next power plan.

Bonneville Power Corporation proposal

While in Seattle, the Council held evening and morning sessions in the last of its public hearings on Bonneville's proposed government corporation legislation. In December, the governors of the four states directed the Council to conduct public hearings throughout the region on Bonneville's proposed legislation. For more information on Bonneville's latest draft legislation, see related article in this issue.

February 16, Portland

NMFS Draft Biological Opinion

On February 16, the Council held a special meeting in Portland to respond to the National Marine Fisheries Service draft 1994-1998 biological opinion governing operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

"The Council has established the immediate flow augmentation measures in the Strategy for Salmon as a volume of water to be stored in dry years of between eight and nine million acre-feet," the Council's letter said. "The Council acknowledges that these levels will not be sufficient to provide the target flow levels outlined in the Biological Opinion in all years. It further acknowledges that the immediate measures in the Program may not, by themselves, be adequate to recover the listed stocks. In recognizing that shortfall, the Council has called for additional intermediate term measures that may be needed. The Council has also called for an evaluation of the effectiveness of summer flows.

The Council has initiated several processes to examine the merits of these intermediate measures. These measures, as outlined in the Strategy, are to be implemented unless they are shown to be structurally or economically infeasible, biologically imprudent, or inconsistent with sections 4(h)(5)-(7) of the Northwest Power Act. Actual implementation of some of these measures may require NEPA compliance.

The draft Biological Opinion appears to implement these measures without safeguards intended by the Council.

At this time, the Council is not able to reach a unified position on the question whether the National Marine Fisheries Service should find that the hydroelectric dams jeopardize the continued existence of salmon in the Columbia River Basin.

The Council further finds that this 1994-98 Biological Opinion on river operations, together with the 1993 Biological Opinion, only reinforces the Council's conclusion in 1991 that a strategy to improve in-river migration conditions that is based almost entirely on augmentation is not going to succeed. We said additional water, storage and shaping capability are needed, especially in the Snake. But it is clearer today that we are engaged in a zero-sum game that makes competitors of weak salmon, steelhead and bull trout populations, and that

threatens profound impairment of the hydroelectric power system. The answer, for fish or the power system, cannot be found in the draining of Dworshak, Hungry Horse, Libby, Grand Coulee, and the Canadian reservoirs, although all must contribute. It does not lie in shutting down Idaho, Oregon and Washington irrigators, although they must also contribute.

It must lie in measures that stretch further the limited supplies of water available in dry years; otherwise, the region will tear itself apart over the limited and unacceptable choices.

We endorse NMFS direction to the Corps of Engineers to accelerate the analysis, and biological testing, of reservoir drawdown on the Snake River and behind John Day. We need to come to closure soon on whether and how we can proceed with these measures or devise alternatives to make available water go further. And we need to marshal the resources in advance to mitigate impacts of such measures, if appropriate. The people affected are entitled to clarity and predictability to the extent it can be provided.

Finally, the Council believes there is an immediate need to assess effects on depressed wild stocks of resident fish at Hungry Horse and other projects from hydro operations for both power and salmon recovery; and to direct adjustments to these operations as necessary to sustain such depressed stocks, anadromous and resident, without prejudice to either."

The Council made several procedural comments on improving communications with the NMFS for future biological opinions. NMFS has committed to a public process to review the flow and other provisions contained in the draft Biological Opinion. The Council urged the NMFS to:

- use "a more participatory approach (to) permit the Council and others to provide useful analytical support for these important deliberations."
- undertake future consultations "in a fully open and participatory manner. If necessary, existing federal regulations providing for closed-door negotiations should be amended."
- increase emphasis "on understanding the differing assumptions that are producing these disparate results" (in various modeling analyses).
- avoid confusion and delay among implementors by "clearly displaying the connection between the Biological Opinion and the Council's Salmon Strategy."
- coordinate the separate Council and NMFS "rulemakings this year on flow and related mainstem issues...to ensure that both agencies have the best available scientific and technical information."

Watersheds: The Critical Link

The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute will present a seminar on watershed health on Monday evenings, March 28 through April 25. The meetings will be at 7 p.m. at Inlow Hall at the Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande, Oregon.

Topics will include adaptive management for watershed-based, land-use planning, watersheds as systems, how watersheds are used, watershed health and restoration and watershed-based solutions.

The seminar is open to the public. For more information, call the Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute at 503-962-6590.

Council convenes scientists on flow/ survival

Scientists gathered in Portland last month to discuss one of the most important and contentious issues regarding salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River Basin -- the relationship between river flow, water velocity and salmon survival. The Northwest Power Planning Council convened the meeting of 11 regional and national scientists who have studied the issue.

The Council intends to consider an amendment to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program regarding the flow/survival relationship this spring. The Council does not intend to resolve the issue but to define a hypothesis on the relationship and then launch regional efforts to refine the hypothesis.

Scientific studies in the late 1970s suggested that higher river flows generally result in higher survival rates for Columbia Basin salmon because juvenile fish reach the Pacific Ocean faster under such conditions. However, more recent studies suggest the relationship is much more complicated than simply volumes of water and numbers of fish. Other factors enter into the equation, factors such as water temperature, turbidity, fish size and predation.

This is a critical issue for the Northwest not only because of the impact on salmon but because over 60 percent of the electricity used in the region is generated at dams on the Columbia River and its tributaries. Increasing flows to aid fish generally means a reduction in hydropower. Depending on water conditions in the basin, the region may have to purchase electricity from outside the Northwest to make up for the lost generation.

The Council's 1992 Strategy for Salmon, a component of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, recognized that the flow/ survival relationship is one of the key biological uncertainties the region faces. The Strategy called for an independent scientific review of available data on the issue, and then for a Council amendment process.

The review, conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratories, concluded that the despite problems with existing data, the general relationship of increasing survival with increasing flow in the Columbia Basin appears to be reasonable. The reviewer suggested future studies should refine survival estimates using improved techniques and a wider range of fish stocks and flow conditions.

As a first step toward the amendment process, scheduled to begin in March or April, the Council convened the February workshop so that scientists could air their opinions, discuss their work and search for common ground.

"From the workshop it was clear that while there is no consensus on a specific relationship between river flow, velocity and survival, there is agreement on generalities and on how a hypothesis might be shaped and then refined over time," Council Chairman Ted Bottiger said. "The Council does not intend to amend the flows in the Strategy for Salmon at this time. We would not do that without more and better scientific information, and getting that information is the goal of the flow/survival amendment."

Further workshops may be conducted during the upcoming rulemaking, Bottiger said.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: **March 9-10** at the Park Plaza Hotel in Helena, Montana; **April 12-14** at the Erb Memorial Student Union in Eugene, Oregon; **May 11-12** in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: **April 8** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: Tentatively scheduled for **March 11** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Council retreat: The Council will hold an executive session for the purpose of a Council retreat to discuss Council organization, structure, procedure and/or personnel matters on March 8 at 1 p.m. at the Park Plaza Hotel in Helena, Montana.

Council working session and committee meetings: The fish committee will meet on March 22; the working session will be on March 23, and the power committee will meet on March 24. All meetings will be in the Council central office in Portland, Oregon. Call the central office for further information.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #206
Park Plaza Hotel
22 North Last Chance Gulch
Helena, Montana
406-443-2200
Fax: 406-442-4030
March 9-10, 1994 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 9

8:30 - 9 a.m. **Opening statements and committee reports.**

1. 9-9:15 a.m. **Staff update on reservoir forecast and runoff status:** Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; Jim Ruff, staff hydrologist; and John Fazio, power system analyst.

2. 9:30-11:30 a.m. **Council deliberation on draft flow/survival rulemaking:** Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate; and John Volkman, senior counsel.

3. 1:30 - 2 p.m. **Staff overview of wildlife project proposals:** Rick Applegate; and Peter Paquet, wildlife coordinator.

4. 2 -2:30 p.m. **Staff presentation on federal agency budgets:** Ed Sheets; and Steve Crow, director, public affairs division.

5. 2:45 p.m. **Panel presentations and public comment on issue papers on:**
   - **restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the Northwest Power Act** (document 94-4): Bob Rowe, Montana Public Service Commission; Van Jamison, Energy Division Administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; and Bob Miller, Executive Assistant, Transmission and Power Management, Montana Power Company.
   - **independent resource acquisition** (document 94-5): Ron Wilkerson, Manager, Western Montana Electric G&T Co-op, Inc.; Phil Sher, Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative; Representative from the Northwest Conservation Act Coalition; and Ken Toole, Montana Environmental Information Center.
   - **scope and outreach of the power plan** (document 94-7).
   - **direct use of natural gas: analysis and policy options** (document 94-3).

Thursday, March 10

6. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. **Remarks by the Honorable Marc Racicot, Governor of Montana.**

7. 9:30 - 10 a.m. **Council discussion on Bonneville Corporation legislation:** Ed Sheets; and Bob Lohn, general counsel.

8. 10:15-11:15 a.m. **Staff presentation on issue paper on tiered rates:** Dick Watson, director, power planning division; Wally Gibson, manager, system analysis and generation; and Ken Corum, economist, demand forecasting.

9. 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. **Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan:** If appropriate, the Council may vote to take actions to further implementation of particular measures: Ed Sheets; Rick Applegate; and Doug Marker, planning associate.

10. 11:45 a.m. - Noon **Council business.**
   - Approval of intergovernmental agreement to implement the fish and wildlife program.
   - Approval of minutes.

Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows.
The times listed for specified agenda items, and the order of those items, are approximate and are subject to change.
Unless otherwise noted, Council meetings are open to the public.
The Council will hold an executive session to consider matters protectible under the civil litigation and/or premature disclosure exceptions.

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Draft issue paper: Independent resource acquisition: implications and options for the region: **March 10, 1994.**

Draft issue paper: Direct use of natural gas: analysis and policy options: **March 15, 1994.**

Restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the goals of the Northwest Power Act: **April 1, 1994.**

Scoping the new power plan: issues and opportunities: **April 1, 1994.**

UPDATE

Executive Director: Ed Sheets
Public Affairs Director: Steve Crow
Editor: Judi Hertz
Art Director: Stephen Sasser

Update is printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper that is 40 percent de-inked fiber, including 8 percent post-consumer waste

Publications available

Order publications from the Council Portland office, see telephone numbers above. A listing of all Council publications circulated since 1987 also is available from the Portland central office. (♦ indicates document not yet released, but expected in the near future.)

NOTE: When requesting a publication, please use the publication number.

(94-7) Scoping the new power plan: issues and opportunities.

(94-6) 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Response to Comments.

(94-5) Draft issue paper: Independent resource acquisition: implications and options for the region.

(94-4) Restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the goals of the Northwest Power Act.

(94-3) Draft issue paper: Direct use of natural gas: analysis and policy options.

(94-2) ♦ 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (printed version expected to be available in April).

(94-1) ♦ 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Overview.

(93-25) Bonneville Power Administration Corporation Proposal.

(93-24) Comparison of methods to increase water velocities in the Columbia River.

(93-23) Acquiring energy efficiency more efficiently.

(93-21) Response to comments on the Phase 4 amendments to the 1987 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(93-20) Final Phase 4 amendments to the 1987 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

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Volume 11, Number 4

UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

April 1994

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Governors Roberts, Racicot and Senator Hatfield address Council in March

The Governors of Oregon and Montana, and Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, addressed the Council at separate meetings in March. Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts and Senator Hatfield spoke at the Council's second annual Salmon Strategy Progress Review on March 30. Governor Marc Racicot met with the Council in Helena on March 9 (see related story).

At the Salmon Strategy Progress Review, Governor Roberts and Senator Hatfield said the Northwest has a credible salmon recovery plan that must be implemented if the region hopes to avoid court-ordered solutions. "This generation must not be the one that presides over the demise of Columbia Basin salmon runs," Governor Barbara Roberts said. "Finger-pointing [at who's to blame] isn't going to help fish. We need to know what you are doing and how aggressively you are doing it," the Governor told the audience in her welcoming remarks. Top officials of state and federal agencies and tribal governments attended the meeting to discuss progress in implementing the salmon strategy.

"The Council's Strategy for Salmon seems to improve with age — like a fine wine," Hatfield said later in his keynote address to the agency heads. "The most important part of that plan is implementation. We cannot have selective implementation. I call on all state and federal agencies to implement the Council's plan. It's an opportunity to serve as an example of success in dealing with the Endangered Species Act."

Conference participants agreed that progress is being made on several fronts. By the end of the day, points of agreement included:

Mainstem survival

- River operators have provided additional flows for salmon.
- Continued evaluation of the relationship between river flows, velocity and salmon survival is a very high priority for the region.
- It is important to evaluate the impacts of salmon recovery actions, such as increased river flows, on resident fish and to protect resident fish species.
- A clear accounting system must be developed to identify the purpose for water storage and release actions.

Harvest

- Harvest limits in the Strategy for Salmon are being met, and it is important to develop terminal fisheries and selective gear in the future.

Habitat

- The Soil Conservation Service will catalog habitat improvements being made in the basin by private landowners.

Fish production

- Hatchery practices need to be improved. Fishery managers will review new guidelines and incorporate them as policy.
- Efforts to learn about the status and trends of naturally spawning fish populations will be accelerated.
- The National Marine Fisheries Service will review supplementation experiments on a case-by-case basis.

Monitoring and evaluation

- Continue to evaluate actions in the salmon strategy to see if they are producing results.
- Bonneville agreed that the group responsible for independent scientific evaluation of the program will be in place by fall.

Racicot challenges Council to support salmon strategy

Montana Governor Marc Racicot addressed the Northwest Power Planning Council at its March meeting in Helena. Racicot said that while he is pleased with the Council's work overall, he was disappointed that the Council did not react forcefully to a recent proposal to increase the drafting of river reservoirs in his state.

"I feel as if we had a fire here in Montana and that nobody grabbed a bucket," Racicot said.

The fire he referred to was the biological opinion on 1994 hydropower operations prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service. In the biological opinion, the Fisheries Service called for releases of water that are higher than the immediate actions in the Council's Strategy for Salmon. The additional water is intended to aid migrating salmon downstream.

Racicot said he agrees with the Strategy for Salmon, which calls for balancing salmon recovery efforts around the Columbia Basin. He said the biological opinion tipped the balance away from Montana. Racicot initially threatened to sue federal agencies, including the Fisheries Service, over the reservoir drawdown plan, but was able to negotiate an out-of-court settlement in which the agencies agreed to keep outflow from the reservoirs at minimum levels through the summer.

Nonetheless, Racicot said he was concerned about the Council's public image in this debate.

"I feel like somehow you have ceded flow authority to the National Marine Fisheries Service when you are the ones with a balanced plan," Racicot said.

Council Chair R. Ted Bottiger of Washington said the Council found it difficult to respond to the Fisheries Service because the Northwest Governors had differing views of the biological opinion. Racicot opposed it, but Mike Lowry of Washington and Barbara Roberts of Oregon generally favored it. Idaho's Governor Cecil Andrus was opposed for reasons different than Racicot's.

Council conducts government-to-government consultation with Indian tribes

On March 29, the Council met with representatives of 15 Columbia Basin Indian tribes to discuss the region's progress in improving fish and wildlife in the basin.

"We had an open exchange of ideas," Council Chair R.Ted Bottiger said. "Our program must respond to the mandates of the Northwest Power Act as well as to the needs, aspirations and goals of tribal communities."

Nelson Wallulatum, Chair of the Wasco Band of Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, said, "We want to be in the planning process so we know our treaty rights are being protected. We've been talking and talking and talking. We need to be moving, doing more out in the field."

Other tribal leaders said the Council needs to assert a stronger leadership role in securing funding for fish and wildlife improvements.

"That's a fair statement," Bottiger said. "We could have put more pressure on Bonneville to fully implement fish and wildlife measures."

Bottiger noted that, among other things, the Council and the tribes agreed to:

- Work together to ensure Bonne-ville fully funds the Council's fish and wildlife program.

- Discuss further opportunities to promote Columbia Basin fish and wildlife issues in Congress and with the Clinton Administration.

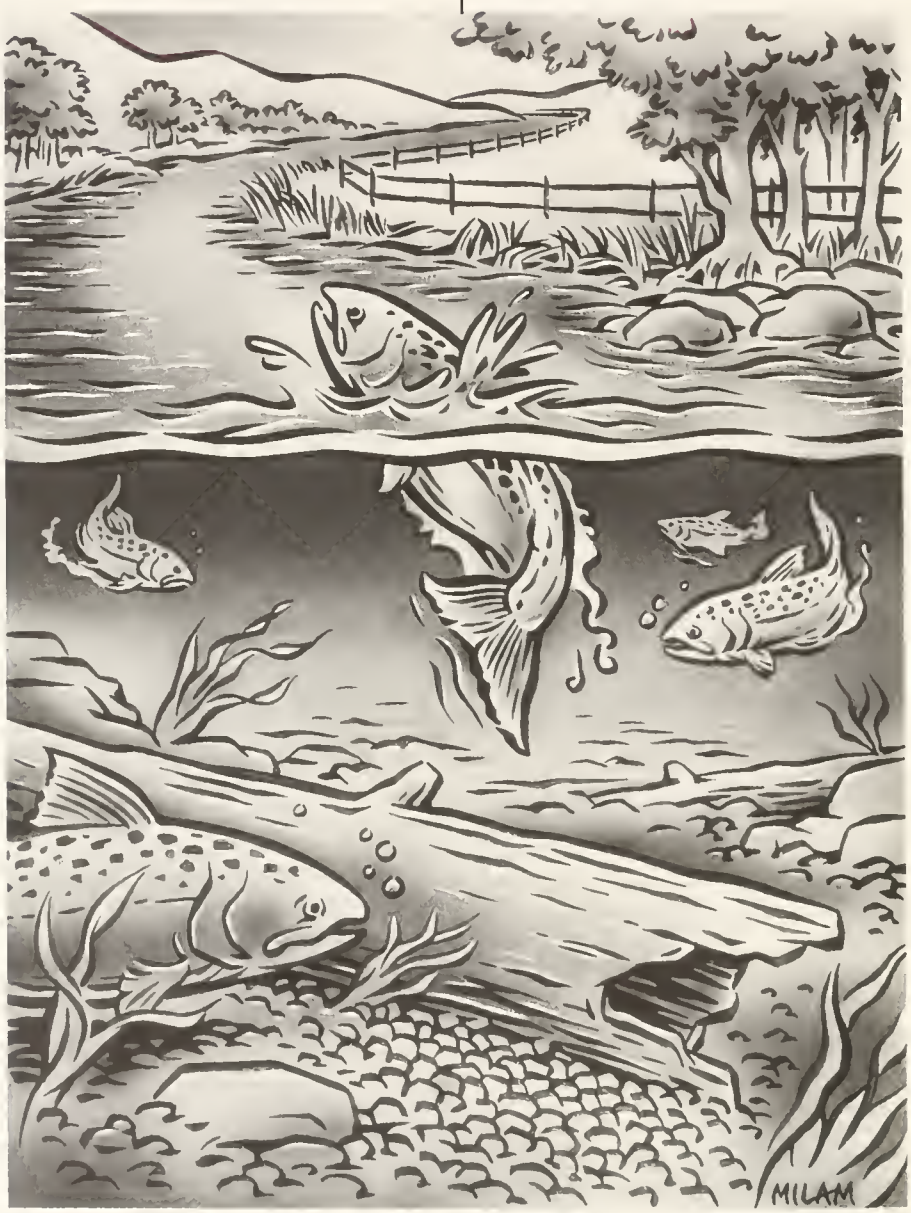
- Pursue closer ties with Canada on common fish and wildlife issues.

Work to ensure that the Endangered Species Act, the Northwest Power Act and tribal treaty rights and trust obligations are fulfilled together in this basin.

Montana Rivers: Conflict or Confluence?

The Montana Watercourse and other agencies are sponsoring an educational symposium on the use and management of Montana's rivers on April 21 and 22 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

For more information, contact Mary Byron at The Montana Watercourse, 406-994-6671.



AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #208
Erb Memorial Union
University of Oregon
1225 East 13th
Eugene, Oregon

April 12-14, 1994

Tuesday, April 12, 1994

1. 1 - 1:30 p.m. — **Opening statements and committee reports.**
2. 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. — **Council deliberation on the role of the direct use of gas in the next power plan:** Dick Watson, director, power division; and Terry Morlan, manager, demand forecasting.
3. 3 - 4 p.m. — **Staff presentation on capacity issues in the Northwest:** Dick Watson; Terry Morlan; and Wally Gibson, manager, system analysis and generation.
4. 4 - 4:30 p.m. — **Council discussion of public comment on the scope of the power plan:** Ed Sheets, executive director; and Dick Watson.

Wednesday, April 13, 1994

5. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. — **Panel discussion of progress on irrigation diversion screens:** Clayton Hawkes, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority; Chuck Keller, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; John Easterbrooks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Dave Nichols, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Tom Clune, Bonneville Power Administration; and R.Z. Smith, National Marine Fisheries Service.
6. 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. — **Status report on harvest management:** Bob Turner, director, Washington Department of Fish and Game; and Jim Martin, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
7. 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. — **Status report on harvest and habitat law enforcement actions:** Rod Nichols, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Enforcement Division; and Lt. Larry Kraft, Oregon State Police, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division.
8. 1:30 - 4 p.m. — **Report on the Snake River and John Day Drawdown Committee studies:** Council Member Bob Saxvik; John Pizzimenti, Harza; John Velehradsky, Joe Murar, Greg Graham, and John Kranda, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
9. 4:15 - 5 p.m. — **Presentation on Knowles Creek habitat project:** Charlie Duberry, Pacific Rivers Council.

Thursday, April 14, 1994

11. 8:30 - 10 a.m. — **Council deliberation on entering rulemaking on draft flow/survival hypothesis:** Ed Sheets; Rick Applegate; Chip McConnaha, systems ecologist; and John Volkman, senior counsel.
12. 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. — **Presentation on wildlife projects:** Members of the Oregon Wildlife Coalition; Friends of Buford Park; and the National Park Service.
13. 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. — **Council review of draft testimony to Senate Appropriations on salmon recovery:** Ed Sheets, executive director; and Steve Crow, director, public affairs division.
14. 11:45 - Noon — **Council business:**
    - — Preliminary Fiscal Year 96 Council budget projections and initiatives.
    - — Approval of minutes.

Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows.
The times listed for specified agenda items, and the order of those items, are approximate and are subject to change.
Unless otherwise noted, Council meetings are open to the public.

Synopsis of March Council meetings

March 8-10, Helena, Montana

Council approves appropriations testimony

At its March meeting in Helena, the Council decided to ask Congress to add $6 million to next year's budget to install more screens at irrigation canals in the Columbia River Basin. The screens are designed to prevent fish from being diverted from rivers and streams into irrigated fields.

The Council approved testimony, submitted to the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees on March 24, asking that money for the screens be added to the 1995 National Marine Fisheries Service budget. NMFS is the agency which usually allocates funds under the Mitchell Act for fish hatcheries and irrigation screens. At the Helena meeting, the Council learned that next year's NMFS budget includes no money for irrigation screens.

"We know these screens work. Everyone in the region supports this program," said Council Chair R. Ted Bottiger of Washington. "Fish that are diverted into agricultural fields die. If we're worried about threatened and endangered fish species, this is one of the quickest and most obvious things we can do."

Also at Helena, the Council endorsed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' budget request for $39 million to continue its program of installing huge fish screens and passage systems at the main dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Those screens are designed to divert juvenile salmon from the dam's turbines and direct them through the bypass outlets. The work was begun ten years ago and is scheduled to be completed by 1998.

The Council also asked Congress to increase the Bureau of Reclamation's budget by $2.7 million to speed construction of improvements at Hungry Horse Dam which will regulate the temperature of water released from the reservoir to benefit fish downstream in the Flathead River.

Two panels of Montana utility executives, regulators and environmentalists attended the Helena meeting and commented on two recent Council issue papers concerning restructuring of the electric utility industry and independent resource acquisition. Both papers are part of the Council's preliminary work to explore the issues which must be addressed in the next power plan. The Council's power division is preparing a series of issue papers to be released this year. The next power plan is scheduled for completion in 1995.

March 23, Portland, Oregon

Council will take up flow-survival amendment in April

At its March 23 meeting in Portland, the Northwest Power Planning Council voted to delay for two weeks action on hypotheses regarding the relationship between river flow, velocity and salmon survival. The Council will take up the issue again at its April 12-14 meeting in Eugene, Oregon.

The Council has developed two draft hypotheses that could form the basis for future research. In one, the Council accepts that there is a relationship between flow, water velocity, fish travel time and survival from the onset of active downstream migration to adult spawning. In the second hypothesis, the Council postulates that under some passage conditions, transportation of juvenile fish in barges downstream past the dams can increase the survival of salmon and steelhead, compared to the survival of similar fish that migrate through the river in those low-water conditions.

At its April meeting in Eugene, the Council will discuss whether to begin a rulemaking process to amend the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program to include the hypotheses.

The hypotheses are designed to guide future research and evaluations of flow and survival issues.

Watersheds: The Critical Link

The Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute will present a seminar on watershed health on Monday evenings, March 28 through April 25. The meetings will be at 7 p.m. at Inlow Hall at the Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande, Oregon.

Topics will include adaptive management for watershed-based, land-use planning, watersheds as systems, how watersheds are used, watershed health and restoration and watershed-based solutions.

The seminar is open to the public. For more information, call the Blue Mountains Natural Resources Institute at 503-962-6590.

Bottiger to address Saving the Pacific Salmon conference

Council Chair R. Ted Bottiger will participate in a panel discussion on salmon recovery planning at a conference on Thursday, April 28, at the Seattle Airport Hilton.

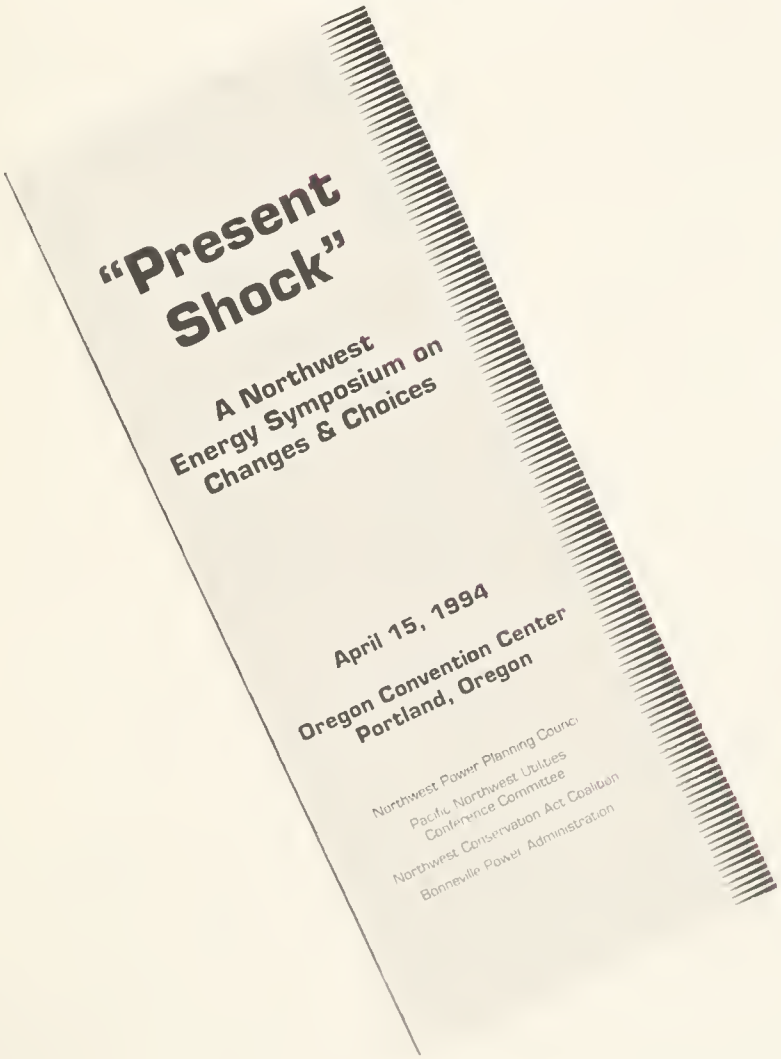
The conference, sponsored by the Columbia River Alliance and Mosey/Hunt, Inc., will be a day-long meeting on the dynamics of biology, public policy and economics of salmon stocks.

Registration is $215 before April 11 and $250 after April 11. For more information, contact Mosey/Hunt in Portland, Oregon, 503-295-2693.

Present Shock: A Northwest Energy Symposium on Changes & Choices

On Friday, April 15, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, the Council is co-sponsoring a symposium on changes in the electric energy business and how the Northwest is being affected. Oregon Council member Angus Duncan will participate in a roundtable discussion of regional issues including concerns for the Council's upcoming power plan update.

For more information, contact the Bonneville Power Administration's public involvement office at 503-230-3478 or 800-622-4519.



Meetings

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Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: **April 8** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: **April 1** and **April 15** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Council working session and committee meetings: The power committee will meet on Tuesday, April 26; the working session will be on April 27; and the fish committee will meet on Thursday, April 28. All meetings will be in the Council central office in Portland, Oregon. Call the central office for further information.

Natural Gas Advisory Committee: Call the Council's central office for date, time and location.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #208
Erb Memorial Union
University of Oregon
1225 East 13th
Eugene, Oregon

April 12-14, 1994

Tuesday, April 12, 1994

1. 1 - 1:30 p.m. — **Opening statements and committee reports.**
2. 1:30 - 2:45 p.m. — **Council deliberation on the role of the direct use of gas in the next power plan:** Dick Watson, director, power division; and Terry Morlan, manager, demand forecasting.
3. 3 - 4 p.m. — **Staff presentation on capacity issues in the Northwest:** Dick Watson; Terry Morlan; and Wally Gibson, manager, system analysis and generation.
4. 4 - 4:30 p.m. — **Council discussion of public comment on the scope of the power plan:** Ed Sheets, executive director; and Dick Watson.

Wednesday, April 13, 1994

5. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. — **Panel discussion of progress on irrigation diversion screens:** Clayton Hawkes, Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority; Chuck Keller, Idaho Department of Fish and Game; John Easterbrooks, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Dave Nichols, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Tom Clune, Bonneville Power Administration; and R.Z. Smith, National Marine Fisheries Service.
6. 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. — **Status report on harvest management:** Bob Turner, director, Washington Department of Fish and Game; and Jim Martin, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
7. 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. — **Status report on harvest and habitat law enforcement actions:** Rod Nichols, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Enforcement Division; and Lt. Larry Kraft, Oregon State Police, Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Division.
8. 1:30 - 4 p.m. — **Report on the Snake River and John Day Drawdown Committee studies:** Council Member Bob Saxvik; John Pizzimenti, Harza; John Velehradsky, Joe Murar, Greg Graham, and John Kranda, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
9. 4:15 - 5 p.m. — **Presentation on Knowles Creek habitat project:** Charlie Duberry, Pacific Rivers Council.

Thursday, April 14, 1994

11. 8:30 - 10 a.m. — **Council deliberation on entering rulemaking on draft flow/survival hypothesis:** Ed Sheets; Rick Applegate; Chip McConnaha, systems ecologist; and John Volkman, senior counsel.
12. 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. — **Presentation on wildlife projects:** Members of the Oregon Wildlife Coalition; Friends of Buford Park; and the National Park Service.
13. 11:15 - 11:45 a.m. — **Council review of draft testimony to Senate Appropriations on salmon recovery:** Ed Sheets, executive director; and Steve Crow, director, public affairs division.
14. 11:45 - Noon — **Council business:**
    - Preliminary Fiscal Year 96 Council budget projections and initiatives.
    - Approval of minutes.

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Comment deadlines

Wildlife mitigation project proposals (94-10): **April 29, 1994.**

Efficient pricing of Bonneville products: Tiered rates and "unbundled products" (94-8): **May 13, 1994.**

Extension of comment deadline

Independent resource acquisitions: implications and options for the region (94-5): **April 15, 1994.**

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(94-10) Wildlife mitigation project proposals.

(94-9) Final report on effect of water velocity on the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River Basin.

(94-8) Efficient pricing of Bonneville products: Tiered rates and "unbundled products."

(94-7) Scoping the new power plan: issues and opportunities.

(94-6) 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Response to Comments.

(94-5) Draft issue paper: Independent resource acquisition: implications and options for the region.

(94-4) Restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the goals of the Northwest Power Act.

(94-3) Draft issue paper: Direct use of natural gas: analysis and policy options.

(94-2) ♦ 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (printed version expected to be available in mid-June).

(94-1) ♦ 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Overview.

(93-25) Bonneville Power Administration Corporation Proposal.

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v. 11 No.5

Volume 11, Number 5

UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

May 1994

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Bottiger gives testimony in D.C.

Council chair Ted Bottiger was invited to testify before the Senate Committee on Appropriations in April at a hearing focusing on the coordination of efforts to improve Columbia River Basin salmon runs.

In his remarks Bottiger told the Senators, "We remain convinced that it is best for the Northwest environment and its economy to focus on the broader goal of healthy populations of fish and wildlife throughout the Columbia River Basin -- not just those listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

"The region is attempting to fulfill at least four critical sets of mandates: those contained in the Northwest Power Act, those in the Endangered Species Act, our federal treaty responsibilities to Columbia Basin Indian Tribes and our obligations under the U.S./Canada Salmon Treaty. None of these mandates is less important than any other. They are complementary, not conflicting. They all aim to protect and enhance fish and wildlife populations in the Columbia River Basin."

He continued, "We are making progress in improving salmon habitat, particularly in screening water withdrawals that harm juvenile fish. We have increased flows in the mainstems of the Snake and Columbia and lowered certain reservoirs to speed the migration of juvenile fish to the ocean and improve their survival. The installation of protective screens and bypass systems at the mainstem dams is proceeding -- although not as quickly as we would like. Hatchery managers are working to improve fish production practices, and Oregon and Washington harvest managers were able to meet or exceed proposals in our program last year for protecting Snake River salmon, particularly fall chinook. Fish runs in the Yakima River, the Umatilla River, the Columbia's Hanford Reach and in other areas have clearly benefited."

R. Ted Bottiger, Council Chair

CONSERVATION IN CHANGING TIMES

Third conservation conference set for May 26

The Council will hold its third annual conservation conference on May 26 at the Portland Hilton. Congressman Al Swift will give the keynote address at the conference.

At the conference, the Council will present its conservation awards These awards are given to utilities and customers who have achieved outstanding energy savings. Utilities throughout the region were invited to nominate customers for this recognition.

Former Seattle Mayor Charles Royer will lead a round table discussion of utility CEOs, environmentalists and PUC commissioners about the challenges of achieving conservation in an increasingly competitive utility environment.

Cost of the conference is $25 and includes lunch. For information on registration, call the Council's central office.

Council offices will be closed Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day.

Public hearings set on research hypotheses

Amendments are proposed to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program to establish hypotheses regarding the relationship between river flows, velocity, transportation, and the survival of anadromous fish in the mainstem of the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The two hypotheses could help direct scientific research on the effect of increased river flows and barge transportation on salmon survival.

Comments are solicited on this proposal (document 94-11). Deadline for written comment is 5 p.m., May 25, 1994.

The Council will hold hearings on the proposed hypothesis throughout the region as follows:

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho: May 11, 1994; 5 p.m., Holiday Inn.

Missoula, Montana: May 18, 1994; 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Village Red Lion.

Boise, Idaho: May 18, 1994; 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Owyhee Plaza.

Pasco, Washington: May 23, 1994; 6 p.m., Red Lion.

Portland, Oregon: May 24, 1994; 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Council central office.

Synopsis of April Council meeting

At its April meeting in Eugene, Oregon, the Council took a step toward helping the region improve its understanding of the relationship between salmon survival, river flows, water velocity and transportation of young salmon downriver in barges.

The Council proposed to amend the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program with two hypotheses that could guide future research. One concerns river flows, water velocity and salmon survival, and the other has to do with barge transportation of fish.

Public comments on the proposed hypothesis will be taken through May 25.

Also at the Eugene meeting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Harza and Associates, a private engineering firm, reported to the Council their findings on the feasibility and possible costs of drawing down some Columbia and Snake River reservoirs to speed the migration of juvenile salmon to the ocean.

The Corps will hold a series of public hearings throughout the region in May on its drawdown report.

Earlier in the Eugene meeting, fishery managers from Oregon and Washington described the 1994 run of returning Snake River wild fall chinook salmon as one of the lowest in history. All 1994 salmon and steelhead runs, except for upriver and mid-Columbia fall chinook, are predicted to be dramatically below 1993 levels. As a result, coho salmon fishing is banned on the entire West Coast and all non-Indian ocean salmon fishing is canceled off the coasts of Washington and northern Oregon.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: **May 10-12** in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; **June 7-9** at the Spokane Sheraton Hotel in Spokane, Washington; **July 6-7** in Whitefish, Montana.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: **June 2** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: **May 6** and **May 20** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Load Shape and Peak Analysis Modeling Project Review Group: **May 25** at the Portland Hilton Hotel, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Council retreat: The Council will hold an executive session for the purpose of a Council retreat to discuss Council organization, structure, procedure and/or personnel matters on May 10 at 2:45 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Council working session and committee meetings: The fish committee will meet on Tuesday, May 24; the working session will be on May 25; and the power committee will meet in the morning on May 26. All meetings will be in the Council central office in Portland, Oregon. Call the central office for further information.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #209

Holiday Inn
414 West Apple Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
208-765-3200
May 10-12, 1994

Tuesday, May 10

1.	1 - 2:30 p.m.	**Presentation of Upper Columbia United Tribes fish and wildlife projects and discussion of Bonneville Power Administration implementation of phase 4 resident fish amendments:** Al Scholz, Upper Columbia United Tribes; and representatives of the Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispell and Kootenai tribes.
	2:45 p.m.	**Council executive session and retreat.**

Wednesday, May 11

	8:30 - 9 a.m.	**Opening statements and committee reports.**
2.	9 - 10 a.m.	**Council discussion on mainstem rulemaking schedule and Council decision to seek recommendations for amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.** Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; Bob Lohn, legal counsel; and John Volkman, senior counsel.
3.	10:15 - 11:30 a.m.	**Briefing on decline of salmon runs and analysis of rebuilding efforts:** Chip McConnaha, systems ecologist.
4.	1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	**Presentation on the status of draft legislation to make the Bonneville Power Administration an independent corporation:** Jack Robertson, deputy chief executive officer, Bonneville Power Administration.
5.	2:30 - 3:30 p.m.	**Council decision on Idaho and Oregon wildlife projects:** Rick Applegate; and Peter Paquet, wildlife coordinator.
6.	3:30 - 5 p.m.	**Council decision to enter rulemaking on Lake Pend Oreille kokanee study plan and resident fish substitutions:** Rick Applegate; and John Marsh, system planning coordinator.
7.	5 p.m.	**Public hearing on mainstem survival hypothesis draft amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program** (document 94-11).

Thursday, May 12

8.	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	**Council decision on issue paper on independent acquisition** (document 94-5): Dick Watson, director, power planning division; and Ken Corum, economist.
9.	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	**Public comment on issue paper on tiered rates** (document 94-8).
10.	10:45 - 11:30 a.m.	**Council discussion of new power plan work plan:** Ed Sheets and Dick Watson.
11.	1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	**Council decision to circulate draft Council Fiscal Year 96 and Fiscal Year 95 revised budget for public review** (document 94-12): Ed Sheets; and Jim Tanner, administrative officer.
12.	2:15 - 2:45 p.m.	**Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan:** If appropriate, the Council may need to take actions regarding implementation of particular measures. Ed Sheets, Rick Applegate, Dick Watson, and Doug Marker, planning associate.
13.	2:45 - 3 p.m.	**Council business:** — Approval of minutes — Charter of Fish Operations Executive Committee

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Comment deadlines

Efficient pricing of Bonneville products: Tiered rates and "unbundled products" (94-8): **May 13, 1994.**

Proposed mainstem hypotheses rule (94-11): **May 25, 1994.**

Draft Fiscal Year 1996 budget and Fiscal Year 1995 revisions (94-12): **June 30, 1994.**

Comment deadline extension:

Scoping the next power plan: issues and opportunities (94-7): **Comment deadline extended to May 2, 1994.**

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NOTE: When requesting a publication, please use the publication number.

(94-13) Patterns of electricity consumption in the Pacific Northwest region: a primer.

(94-12) Draft Fiscal Year 1996 budget and Fiscal Year 1995 revisions.

(94-11) Proposed mainstem hypotheses rule.

(94-10) Wildlife mitigation project proposals.

(94-9) Final report on effect of water velocity on the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead on the Columbia River Basin.

(94-8) Efficient pricing of Bonneville products: Tiered rates and "unbundled products."

(94-7) Scoping the new power plan: issues and opportunities.

(94-6) 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Response to Comments.

(94-5) Draft issue paper: Independent resource acquisition: implications and options for the region.

(94-4) Restructuring of the electric utility industry: implications for the goals of the Northwest Power Act.

(94-2) ♦1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (printed version expected to be available in mid-June).

(94-1) ♦1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Overview.

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Volume 11, Number 6 June 1994

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Council seeks proposals to amend salmon program

The Northwest Power Planning Council will seek recommendations for amendments to the measures for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

At its May meeting in Coeur d'Alene, the Council voted to consider amendments regarding anadromous fish and to focus particularly on measures to improve survival of salmon and steelhead at and between hydroelectric facilities and on harvest, hatchery and habitat issues raised by the National Marine Fisheries Service's biological opinions, related litigation or the National Marine Fisheries Service recovery planning program for Snake River salmon.

The current anadromous fish portions of the program are included in the Strategy for Salmon, which dates to 1992. The Strategy called for reports to be prepared on a variety of measures to improve passage of anadromous fish in their mainstem migration. These included reservoir drawdowns, potential new Snake River Basin storage facilities, water efficiencies, measures to protect resident fish and wildlife populations of Libby and Hungry Horse reservoirs in Montana. All of these reports grew out of amendment recommendations that were submitted in the Strategy for Salmon process. In the Strategy, the Council committed to review those reports in 1994.

Since the Strategy for Salmon was adopted, a number of other issues have arisen in connection with the National Marine Fisheries Service's 1993 and 1994 biological opinions, the National Marine Fisheries Service Recovery Team's recommendations, the federal court settlement discussions regarding Columbia and Snake river flows, and other matters. To ensure that the Council takes these matters fully into account in its rulemaking process, the Council is requesting recommendations regarding all measures for anadromous fish.

The deadline for submitting recommendations to the Council is August 15. The Council expects to have a draft available in September, and will hold public hearings throughout the region in the fall, with final action expected in December.

Energy efficiency awards given at May 26 conference

On May 26, the Council convened utility executives and regulators from every Northwest state to the third annual regional utility conference to discuss conservation in changing times.

Former Seattle Mayor Charles Royer led a discussion among the utility executives, regulators and state and federal government officials about the challenges of achieving conservation in an increasingly competitive utility environment.

The conference featured presentation of the Council's energy efficiency awards. These awards were given to more than a dozen utilities in the Northwest, seven school districts and four of the region's industries. Recipients included the Tacoma Urban League, the Bonneville Power Administration, Blue Cross Blue Shield and Headquarters I Corps of the U.S. Army.

Council approves wildlife projects in Idaho and Oregon

At its May meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, the Northwest Power Planning Council approved three projects in Idaho and four in Oregon to improve wildlife populations harmed by hydroelectric dams.

Council approval gives the go-ahead to the Bonneville Power Administration to negotiate funding with the project sponsors, who include state fish and wildlife agencies and Indian tribes.

Idaho projects approved by the Council include habitat improvements in the South Fork Snake River and Sand Creek, both in southeastern Idaho, a mitigation plan for Cascade Dam and an environmental assessment of mitigation opportunities statewide. Oregon projects include improving habitat for western pond turtles in the southern Willamette Valley, acquiring 355 acres northwest of Eugene as waterfowl habitat, protecting shoreline habitat along several rivers in eastern Oregon and planning for a statewide wildlife trust agreement.

"I'm pleased we are moving forward with these projects," Council Chair R. Ted Bottiger said. "Projects like these are necessary to mitigate the damage caused by construction and operation of the federal hydropower system."

Council offices will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Proposals affect resident fish in Idaho, Oregon

The Northwest Power Planning Council is seeking public comments on two proposals regarding resident fish — those that do not swim to the ocean — in Idaho and Oregon. The first is a proposal to study kokanee survival in Northern Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille, and the other regards funding of projects to improve fish survival above Hells Canyon Dam on the Snake River and Pelton Dam on Oregon's Deschutes River.

At its May meeting in Coeur d'Alene, the Council voted to seek public comments on a study that would hold the level of Lake Pend Oreille higher for three winters to assess the impact on kokanee. Kokanee numbers have been declining in Lake Pend Oreille for more than 25 years, and the lake level is believed to be a culprit.

That is because each winter Lake Pend Oreille is drawn down about 11 feet for hydropower generation purposes. Holding the lake level higher could improve kokanee spawning and survival.

The Council also voted to seek recommendations on who should pay for resident fish substitution projects above Hells Canyon Dam on the Snake River and Pelton Dam on the Deschutes River in Oregon. Resident fish, such as trout and kokanee, are planted in areas of the Columbia Basin that have been blocked by dams and no longer are available to ocean-going fish. Hells Canyon and Pelton Dams are owned by investor-owned utilities. The Council is seeking comments on how the funding responsibility for these projects should be divided between the utilities and the federal government, particularly the Bonneville Power Administration, which has a legal obligation to mitigate the impact of Columbia Basin dams on fish and wildlife.

The Council has prepared amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program regarding the funding issue, and these are available from the Council's central office in Portland. A Council staff report on the Lake Pend Oreille study and the study scope of work also are available from the Council's central office (see back cover to order the documents). The deadline for comments on both issues is June 17.

Hearings on the resident fish substitution issue are scheduled:

Spokane, Washington, June 9, Spokane Sheraton Hotel, 10:45 a.m.

Boise, Idaho, June 13, Council offices, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Portland, Oregon, June 13, Council central offices, 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Helena, Montana, June 14, Council offices, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Hearings on the Lake Pend Oreille issue are scheduled:

Sandpoint, Idaho, June 6, Community Hall, 204 So. First Avenue, 6 to 9 p.m.

Spokane, Washington, June 9, Spokane Sheraton Hotel, 10:45 a.m. (in conjunction with the hearing on resident fish substitutions and mainstem hypotheses).

Portland, Oregon, June 13, Council central offices, 4:30 to 6 p.m. (in conjunction with the hearing on resident fish substitutions).

Helena, Montana, June 14, Council offices, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. (in conjunction with the hearing on resident fish substitutions).

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Council meetings: **June 7-9** at the Spokane Sheraton Hotel in Spokane, Washington; **July 6-7** in Whitefish, Montana; **August 8-10** in LaGrande, Oregon.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: Call the central office for date, time and location.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: **June 3** and **June 17** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Council working session: June 21; 22 and 23 in the Council central office in Portland, Oregon. Call the central office for further information.

Public hearing on petition for rulemaking:

During its working session in June, the Council will hold a hearing to take public testimony regarding a petition for rulemaking to revise the 1991 Power Plan submitted by Alfred H. Canada. The petition asks the Council to enter rulemaking, including investigation and public hearings, "to revise the power plan to admit 1,500 aMW of solar voltaic generation power plant and to demit securing at least 1,500 aMW of conservation before the year 2000." For a copy of the petition, contact the Council central office and ask for a copy of the Solar Petition. For information on the time of the hearing, contact the central office.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #210

Spokane Sheraton Hotel
North 322 Spokane Falls Court
Spokane, Washington
509-445-9600

Tuesday, June 7, 1994

	1 - 1:15 p.m.	**Opening statements**
1.	1:15 - 2:30 p.m.	**Council discussion of principles for reinventing Bonneville Power Administration's conservation programs:** Ed Sheets, executive director; Dick Watson, director, power planning division.
2.	2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	**Council decision on efficient pricing:** Dick Watson; and Ken Corum, economist, demand forecasting.
3.	4 - 5 p.m.	**Council discussion of revised draft of legislation to create an independent Bonneville Power Corporation.** The Council may decide to release a draft of the legislation and an issue paper for public comment. Ed Sheets and Bob Lohn, general counsel.

Wednesday, June 8, 1994

4.	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	**Council briefing on current river operations:** Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; John Fazio, power system analyst; and Jim Ruff, staff hydrologist.
5.	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	**Council briefing on spill:** Rick Applegate; and Chip McConnaha, system ecologist.
6.	10:45 - 11:45 a.m.	**Council briefing on predation:** Rick Applegate; and Peter Paquet, wildlife coordinator.
7.	1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	**Presentation on Asotin Creek model watershed:** John Marsh, system planning coordinator; Linda Arcuri, Washington Council staff member; Duane Bartels, Pahata Creek model watershed coordinator; Jim Destauel, Soil Conservation Service; Frank Easter, Soil Conservation Service; and Brian Sangster, Asotin Creek subbasin model watershed coordinator.
8.	2:45 - 3:45 p.m.	**Council decision on fish and wildlife management audit:** Rick Applegate; Bob Lohn; and Doug Marker, planning associate.
9.	3:45 - 4:15 p.m.	**Public comment on draft Fiscal Year 95 and Fiscal Year 96 budget.**
10.	4:15 - 4:30 p.m.	**Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan.** If appropriate, the Council may need to take actions regarding implementation of particular measures. Ed Sheets; Dick Watson, Rick Applegate; and Doug Marker.
11.	4:30 - 5 p.m.	**Council business:** — Charter of Fish Operations Executive Committee — Charter for Demand Forecasting Advisory Committee — Approval of minutes

Thursday, June 9, 1994

12.	8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	**Council discussion of Fiscal Year 94-95 resident fish projects:** Rick Applegate and John Marsh.
13.	9:30 - 10:30 a.m.	**Briefing on power and reservoir impacts on Lake Pend Oreille:** Rick Applegate; John Marsh; Jim Ruff; and John Fazio.
14.	10:45 a.m.	**Public hearings on: 1) proposal to test higher summer pool levels at Lake Pend Oreille; 2) resident fish substitutions; and 3) mainstem survival hypothesis draft amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.**

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Comment deadlines

Request for comment on development of a scope of work to study Lake Pend Oreille kokanee (94-15): **June 17, 1994.**

Request for comment on proposed amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program re resident fish substitution projects (94-16): **June 17, 1994.**

Draft Fiscal Year 1996 budget and Fiscal Year 1995 revisions (94-12): **June 30, 1994.**

Recommendations for amendments to the anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-14): **August 15, 1994.**

Comment deadline extended:
Proposed mainstem hypotheses rule (94-11): Deadline extended to **June 24, 1994.**

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Art Director: Stephen Sasser

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NOTE: When requesting a publication, please use the publication number.

(94-19) The Green Book: tracking Pacific Northwest electric utility conservation achievements 1978-1992 (TRACK-92), Volume II, Appendix.

(94-18) The Green Book: tracking Pacific Northwest electric utility conservation achievements 1978-1992 (TRACK-92), Volume I, Regional Summary.

(94-17) Making conservation work: practical answers for commercial and industrial program managers.

(94-16) Request for comment on proposed amendments to the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program re resident fish substitution projects.

(94-15) Request for comment on development of a scope of work to study Lake Pend Oreille kokanee.

(94-14) Request for recommendations for amendments to the anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(94-13) Patterns of electricity consumption in the Pacific Northwest region: a primer.

(94-12) Draft Fiscal Year 1996 budget and Fiscal Year 1995 revisions.

(94-11) Proposed mainstem hypotheses rule.

(94-2) ♦ 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(94-1) 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program Overview.

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Volume 11, Number 7

UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

July 1994

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Landowners join Asotin Creek watershed project

At the June meeting in Spokane, Washington, the Council met with landowners who are working with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service to improve salmon spawning and rearing habitat in Asotin Creek, a Snake River tributary near Clarkston, Washington. Asotin Creek, which has a run of spring chinook salmon, a threatened species, is one of several Council-designated model waterheds in the Columbia Basin, where landowners and government are working to improve fish habitat on privately owned land.

"When we walked into this valley with the model watershed program, we truly walked into fertile ground," said eastern Washington Council Member Ken Casavant, an agricultural economist at Washington State University. "These landowners understand they have to make a living with their land, and they also understand the social and environmental consequences of their actions. They are feeling very positive about this experience, and they are serving as role models for their peers in the area."

The Council's fish and wildlife program calls for ensuring that human activities affecting production of salmon and steelhead in each subbasin of the Columbia River Basin are coordinated on a comprehensive watershed management basis. This requires direct involvement of private landowners in identification and implementation of habitat actions, protection and improvement of habitat.

The Asotin Creek project began in 1993. The program is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Emergency spill at dams probably had little effect on salmon, Council learns

An emergency effort to increase the survival of juvenile salmon by spilling water over Columbia and Snake river dams probably began too late in the year to have much effect. The action also reinforces the need for careful monitoring of such efforts, an analysis by the Northwest Power Planning Council staff concludes.

The Council's staff analyzed the emergency spill, which began on May 11, and ended on the Snake River June 15 and on the Columbia June 20. The analysis showed that by the time the spill began, a high percentage of juvenile fish already had migrated to the ocean. In addition, any determination of benefit must be largely speculative because the spill was not monitored in a way that would help future fish production decisions, according to the analysis.

"This was an uncertain action, but there are lots of uncertainties about what benefits salmon," Council Chairman R. Ted Bottiger said. "We can't let uncertainties stop us from trying actions that appear promising."

At the request of state, federal and tribal fishery managers, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the dams, increased the amount of water that is spilled over the dams. The intent is to divert juvenile fish, which swim close to the surface of the river, away from the turbines where they can be stunned or killed. The number of returning adult salmon in the Columbia this year is at an all-time low, and the agencies and Indian tribes of the lower Columbia asked for the emergency spill in the hope that it would increase protection of juvenile salmon as they migrate to the ocean.

The emergency spill had supporters and detractors. Some said the increased spill would hurt fish by exposing them to higher-than-normal levels of gasses in the frothy water below the dams, but others said this exposure may not be life-threatening. Others criticized the extra spill for its impact on hydropower generation. The agencies and tribes are considering more spill in July, when juvenile fall chinook salmon are migrating to the ocean. The Clinton administration announced on June 23 that the federal government would pay the cost of lost hydropower generation during the spill periods.

The Council's staff analysis shows that any determination of benefit from the emergency spill depends on the presumed benefit of transporting juvenile fish down the river in barges instead of leaving them in the river. If transportation is assumed to benefit fish, then spill reduces the number of salmon that are transported and therefore reduces overall survival. If barging fish does not improve salmon survival, then spill increases overall salmon survival. The benefits also depend on how survival is affected by high levels of dissolved gas produced by the spill this year.

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Council approves policy on efficient pricing

At its June meeting in Spokane, Washington, the Council approved the final version of an issue paper on efficient pricing of Bonneville Power Administration electricity. Efficient pricing is one of the issues the Council will investigate in revising the 1991 Northwest Power Plan. That revision is scheduled to lead to a new draft power plan in the summer of 1995.

The paper defined efficient pricing as "a set of prices that makes the cost of buying an incremental unit from Bonneville equal to the cost to Bonneville of providing the incremental unit." The paper also discussed two general approaches to tiered rates.

Public comments on the paper supported the principle of efficient pricing but also raised several concerns, such as the difficulty — perhaps the impossibility — of achieving precise equality between prices and costs for every product Bonneville sells.

Among the paper's conclusions are:

- The region should not abandon the principle of efficient pricing of Bonneville's products. Abandoning the principle might preserve the illusion of cheap energy services for a while, but at the cost of encouraging wasteful use of the existing power system and discouraging the development of competitive suppliers of all the services Bonneville provides, whether energy, capacity, transmission or supplemental services.

- Adopting efficient pricing as a standard of comparison, and choosing price structures that approximate the standard as much as is practical will help move the region toward least-cost resources in the future.

For a copy of the issue paper, call the Council's central office and request document 94-8.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: **July 5-7** at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, Montana; **August 9-11** at the Hoke College Center, Eastern Oregon State College in LaGrande, Oregon; **September 13-15** in Jackson, Wyoming.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: Call the central office for date, time and location.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: **July 8** and **July 22** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Council working session: The Council working session will be July 25 through July 29 in Spokane, Washington. Call the office for an agenda.

Sustainable Development symposium

The American Institute of Architects/ Portland Chapter, and Portland State University School of extended design studies will hold a two-day symposium "Funding Sustainable Design and Development" on July 15 and 16. The meeting will be at the Lincoln Hall Auditorium 175 in Portland, Oregon. For more information, contact the AIA, 503-223-8757.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #211

Grouse Mountain Lodge
1205 Highway 93 West
Whitefish, Montana
406-862-3000

Tuesday, July 5, 1994

	1 - 1:15 p.m.	**Opening statements and committee reports.**
1.	1:15 - 2 p.m.	**Council decision on resident fish substitutions:** Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; and John Marsh, resident fish coordinator.
2.	2:15 - 3:15 p.m.	**Council decision on resident fish projects for Fiscal Year 94 and Fiscal Year 95:** Rick Applegate; and John Marsh.
3.	3:15 - 3:45 p.m.	**Council response to a request by Direct Service Industries, Inc. to become a member of the Fish Operations Executive Committee:** Rick Applegate; and John Volkman, senior counsel.
4.	4 p.m.	**Briefing on allocation of fish and wildlife expenses under Section 4(h)(10)(C) of the Northwest Power Act:** Ed Sheets, executive director; and Bob Lohn, general counsel.
	4:30 p.m.	**Executive session.**

Wednesday, July 6, 1994

5.	8:30 - 10 a.m.	**Council decision on proposal to test higher winter pool levels at Lake Pend Oreille:** Rick Applegate; Jim Ruff, staff hydrologist; John Marsh; and John Fazio, power system analyst.
6.	10:15 - 11 a.m.	**Presentation by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe:** Panelists to be announced.
7.	11 - 11:45 a.m.	**Briefing on drawdown test:** Rick Applegate; Chip McConnaha, system ecologist; and Jim Ruff.
8.	1:30 - 3 p.m.	**Staff presentation on integrated rule curves analysis:** Rick Applegate; Jim Ruff; Brian Marotz, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; and Joe Dos Santos, Montana Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe.
9.	3:15 - 4:15 p.m.	**Briefing on harvest and federal fisheries assistance program:** Bob Turner, director, Washington Department of Fish and Game, on ocean and river harvest and U.S./Canada Treaty; and Randy Fisher, executive director, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.
10.	4:15 - 5:15 p.m.	**Council discussion of integrated resource planning criteria and conservation reinvention:** Dick Watson, director, power division.

Thursday, July 7, 1994

11.	8:30 - 10 a.m.	**Briefing by Bonneville on Bonneville Business Plan**: Walt Pollock, Group Vice President, Marketing and Production.
12.	10:15 - 10:45 a.m.	**Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan.** If appropriate, the Council may need to take actions regarding implementation of particular measures. Ed Sheets; Dick Watson; Rick Applegate; and Doug Marker, planning associate.
13.	11 - 11:30 a.m.	**Council decision on draft Fiscal Year 95 and Fiscal Year 96 Council budget:** Ed Sheets and Jim Tanner, administrative officer.
14.	11:30 a.m. - Noon	**Council business:**
		--Approval of minutes.

Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows. The times listed for specified agenda items, and the order of those items, are approximate and are subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, Council meetings are open to the public. The Council will hold an executive session to consider matters protectible under the civil litigation and internal personnel matters exceptions.

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Comment deadlines

Recommendations for amendments to the anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-14): **August 15, 1994.**

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(94-25) Briefing on smolt transportation and its role in rebuilding fish populations.

(94-24) Briefing on Columbia/Snake River fish spill program.

(94-23) Briefing on predation and competition.

(94-22) Briefing on power system impacts of the National Marine Fisheries Service 1994 Biological Opinion.

(94-21) Scope of new power plan.

(94-20) Status of fish bypass systems and production impacts.

(94-19) The Green Book: tracking Pacific Northwest electric utility conservation achievements 1978-1992 (TRACK-92), Volume II, Appendix.

(94-18) The Green Book: tracking Pacific Northwest electric utility conservation achievements 1978-1992 (TRACK-92), Volume I, Regional Summary.

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Volume 11, Number 8

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August 1994

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Council acts to focus research

At its July meeting in Spokane, Washington, the Northwest Power Planning Council launched a major effort to improve scientific knowledge about rebuilding salmon runs in the Columbia River Basin. The Council voted 6-2 to amend its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program to test and refine ways to improve the survival of juvenile salmon migrating to the Pacific Ocean.

"Currently there is a lot of debate in the region about whether increased river flows lead to increased salmon survival," Council Chair Ted Bottiger of Washington said. "With the help of some of the region's top fishery scientists, we developed two scientific hypotheses that can be used to adequately test these critical relationships."

The Council's program will test whether increased river flows lead to higher salmon survival. Other research will test whether transporting juvenile salmon downriver in barges or trucks can increase salmon survival.

The benefits of higher flows, on one hand, and transportation of juvenile salmon, on the other, need to be understood more fully, the Council believes. Currently available scientific data suggest that higher flows lead to higher survival, but there is uncertainty about how much flow is needed. This is a controversial subject because higher flows can lead to higher regional electricity prices, reservoir recreation impacts and resident fish and wildlife impacts.

Idaho's two Council members voted against the hypotheses, saying the Council needs to act now on the basis of available information.

"The critical condition of Snake River salmon ought to convince us to act now for the benefit of these declining salmon stocks and not opt for more years of study," Council Vice Chair Jay Webb of Idaho said.

Don't forget!

Deadine for recommendations for amendments to the anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program is August 15, 1994.

Comments sought on salmon hatchery policies

The Integrated Hatchery Operations Team, created by the Northwest Power Planning Council to recommend methods to improve the operation and coordination of more than 90 salmon and steelhead hatcheries in the Columbia Basin, recently completed its draft document and is seeking public comments.

Fish hatcheries in the Columbia Basin are operated by several different agencies, and operating guidelines vary. The Integrated Hatchery Operations Team has developed proposed hatchery policies for operating all Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead hatcheries.

In August, the team will conduct five meetings around the region. Copies of the recommendations and a related draft implementation plan are available from the Bonneville Power Administration Public Involvement Office, 1-800-622-4520 or by writing to Public Involvement, BPA-ALP, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, OR, 97212.

Council seeks comment on six key issues for Lake Pend Oreille study

The Northwest Power Planning Council is seeking additional public comment on six issues regarding a proposed study of kokanee in Lake Pend Oreille. Kokanee in the northern Idaho lake have been declining for years. The proposed study would involve holding the level of the lake five feet higher during winter months to determine whether this improves kokanee spawning.

At its July meeting in Whitefish, Montana, the Council voted to seek public comment through August 12 on the following issues:

- What is the current status of the kokanee population?
- What is the minimum population level necessary for continued survival of the fish?
- What actions could be taken to improve the kokanee population without the lake level study?
- Could water releases from Lake Pend Oreille be used to enhance river flows downstream in the Columbia River to aid salmon migration?
- Is there a need for an environmental impact statement on the lake level test?
- What is the impact of fishing on kokanee in the lake?

The Council is scheduled to take action in late August.

Council offices will be closed Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.

Meetings

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Council meetings: August 9-11 at the Hoke College Center, Eastern Oregon State College in La Grande, Oregon; September 13-15 in Jackson, Wyoming; October 11-13 in Olympia, Washington.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: Call the central office for date, time and location.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: August 5 and August 19 at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Council working session: The Council working session will be August 22 through 26 in Portland, Oregon. Call the Council central office for an agenda.

Council tour in La Grande: A tour of the Grande Ronde Basin model watershed projects will be Wednesday, August 10, as part of the Council meeting in La Grande. The public is invited. Tour buses will leave the Pony Soldier Motel at noon on August 10. A modest fee will be charged to cover the expense of meals. For more information, call Michael Powelson at 503-229-5171.

Council approves projects to enhance non-salmon fish runs

At its July meeting in Whitefish, Montana, the Northwest Power Planning Council approved a number of projects to enhance fish populations in Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The Council plans to discuss these projects with the Bonneville Power Administration to ensure that funding is provided.

The projects address resident fish — those that don't swim to the ocean. Under the Northwest Power Act of 1980, Bonneville Power Administration ratepayers finance projects to enhance fish and wildlife populations that have been affected by the construction and operation of dams in the Columbia River Basin. For the past 13 years, most of that money has been spent on ocean-going fish. Now the Council is directing more money to aid resident fish.

"These are the highest-priority, non-salmon projects identified by state fish and wildlife agencies and Indian tribes, and it is critical that we ensure adequate funding," Council Chair Ted Bottiger of Washington said.

The Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program calls on the Bonneville Power Administration to establish a planning target of 15 percent of its fish and wildlife expenditures for non-salmon projects, 15 percent for wildlife enhancement projects and 70 percent for salmon enhancement.

The projects approved by the Council in July would cost about $845,000 to implement during the remainder of 1994 and about $4.1 million in 1995. That would increase Bonneville's spending on non-salmon projects to about 11 percent of its fish and wildlife budget, still short of the 15-percent target. Bonneville currently has planned only about $1 million for resident fish in 1995.

Proposal would keep reservoir levels higher behind MT dams

New operating procedures have been proposed for Hungry Horse and Libby dams in Montana. The Northwest Power Planning Council reviewed the proposed operating procedures at its July meeting in Whitefish, Montana, and will consider amending them into the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program this fall.

The proposed operating procedures were designed by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, in consultation with Indian tribes and the federal agencies that operate the dams. They are designed to protect fish and wildlife from severe fluctuations in the level of the reservoirs behind the dams.

The operating procedures, known as integrated rule curves, are designed to provide desired minimum reservoir elevation limits for each month of the year, depending on runoff and refill conditions, in order to enhance biological production. If implemented as written, the rule curves will tend to keep water levels at both Libby and Hungry Horse higher than under current operations.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #213
Hoke College Center, Room 201
Eastern Oregon State College
La Grande, Oregon

Tuesday, August 9

1. 1:30 - 2 p.m. — **Council decision on draft Fiscal Year 95 and Fiscal Year 96 Council budget:** Ed Sheets, executive director; and Jim Tanner, administrative officer.

2. 2 - 3:30 p.m. — **Council discussion on environmental externalities:** Dick Watson, director, power planning division; and Ken Corum, economist, demand forecasting.

3. 3:45 - 5 p.m. — **Briefing on detailed fishery operating plan (DFOP):** Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; Jim Ruff; staff hydrologist; and John Fazio, power system analyst.

Wednesday, August 10

4. 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. — **Briefing on John Day and Snake River drawdowns and surface bypass systems:** Rick Applegate; Jim Ruff; and John Pizzimenti, Harza Northwest, Inc. (tentative).

5. Noon — **Council tour of watershed restoration sites in Wallowa County.** See information under "meetings."

Thursday, August 11

6. 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. — **Presentation on watershed enhancement to promote economic opportunities:** Dan'l Markham, Willapa Alliance.

7. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. — **Presentation by Columbia Basin Fish & Wildlife Authority on Fiscal Year 95 fish and wildlife budget priorities:** Tom Giese, Implementation Planning Process Coordinator.

8. 10:45 - Noon — **Briefing on Snake River water issues:** Rick Applegate; and John Volkman, acting general counsel.

9. 1:30 - 1:45 p.m. — **Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan.** If appropriate, the Council may need to take actions regarding implementation of particular measures. Ed Sheets; Dick Watson; Rick Applegate; and Doug Marker, planning associate.

10. 1:45 - 3 p.m. — **Consultation on Lake Pend Oreille Kokanee Study.**

11. 3 - 3:45 p.m. — **Council business**

- Council decision on petition for rulemaking to revise the 1991 Power Plan by Alfred H. Canada
- NUPLAN contract decision
- DSI participation in the Fish Operations Executive Committee
- Approval of charter of Conservation Resources Advisory Committee
- Request for resident fish and wildlife recommendations
- Council decision to support the Conservation Monitor
- Approval of minutes

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Comment deadlines

Recommendations for amendments to the anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-14): **August 15, 1994.**

Comment period reopened:
Request for comment on development of a scope of work to study Lake Pend Oreille kokanee (94-25): **Comment date extended to August 12, 1994.**

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(94-36) Briefing paper: Salmon and steelhead habitat and production issues.

(94-35) Draft briefing paper: Extra-regional transactions to mitigate fish flow operations.

(94-34) Briefing paper: The effect of electricity demand growth on river resources.

(94-33) Briefing paper: Summer flow in the Columbia River for fisheries enhancement.

(94-32) Briefing paper: Columbia Basin fishery planning models.

(94-31) Draft briefing paper: Conservation performance: reviewing the past and refining the future.

(94-30) Issue paper on planning criteria and assumptions.

(94-29) Draft 1994 annual report.

(94-28) Briefing paper: biological drawdown.

(94-27) Briefing paper: integrated rule curves at Hungry Horse and Libby dams.

(94-26) Briefing paper: ocean production.

(94-25) Briefing paper: smolt transportation and its role in rebuilding fish populations.

(94-24) Briefing paper: Columbia/Snake River fish spill program.

(94-23) Briefing paper: predation and competition.

(94-22) Briefing on power system impacts of the National Marine Fisheries Service 1994 Biological Opinion.

(94-21) Scope of new power plan.

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September 1994

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Council reviewing salmon survival proposals

Stop the fish barging. Keep barging the fish.

Say no to drawdowns. Draw down the reservoirs.

Leave the dams as they are. Study breaching the dams.

Those are just a few of the proposals submitted to the Northwest Power Planning Council as it amends the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program this fall and winter.

The Council is studying amendment proposals that cover a wide range of river operations, habitat improvements and salmon harvest proposals, and focus on salmon and steelhead. The Council will call for additional amendment proposals regarding wildlife and non-ocean going fish in November.

"The diversity of the proposals shows how many viewpoints there are in the Northwest about how to save salmon," Council Chair Ted Bottiger said. "Our task under the Northwest Power Act is to find the best mix of measures to improve salmon survival while assuring the region an adequate, efficient and reliable source of electricity."

Indian tribes and environmental groups generally sought higher river flows, including drawdowns of the four lower Snake River dam reservoirs, and additional spill to help salmon during their migration to and from the Pacific Ocean. Electric utilities took a more cautious approach, proposing that no decisions be made on higher flows or spill until the benefits are better understood.

There appeared to be general agreement among the proposals that salmon spawning and rearing habitat needs to be improved, but the various interests differed on how much emphasis that work should get. Utilities proposed additional restrictions on harvest as well.

The Council will use the proposals to prepare draft amendments. A public comment period is scheduled for late September through mid-November. The Council expects to make a final decision on the amendments in December. For a copy of the amendment proposals, request document 94-42. Copies of the draft amendments will be available from the Council's central office in Portland after September 23.

Council members view innovative fish passage facilities at Wells Dam

It's called a "hydrocombine," and it may prove to be the blueprint for dam modifications that could improve salmon survival at dams in the Columbia River Basin, and save money for electricity ratepayers.

The hydrocombine design of Wells Dam, about 50 miles northeast of Wenatchee, is remarkably successful at passing juvenile salmon migrating downstream to the ocean. At Wells Dam, unlike any other on the Columbia or Snake rivers, the spillway is built on top of the electricity-generating turbines. As a result of this unique combination, nearly 90 percent of the juvenile fish that arrive at Wells Dam go over its spillways rather than through its turbines, and that is a much safer ride for salmon.

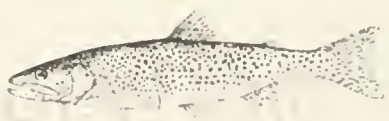
In August, five members of the Northwest Power Planning Council toured Wells Dam and two others in the mid-Columbia Basin to learn more about juvenile salmon passage. The design of Wells Dam, owned and operated by the Douglas County Public Utility District, is particularly intriguing, said Ken Casavant, the Council's Eastern Washington member.

"Because most juvenile salmon swim in the top 10 to 40 feet of the river, the ability of Wells Dam to pass these fish over a surface-level spillway likely gives a real boost to survival, and at a lower loss in power generation," Casavant said.

Earlier in August, the Council reviewed one proposal for such a system, which could be suspended in the water behind a dam to direct fish into a spillway or bypass system. In theory, the systems could boost salmon survival by 40 percent over passage through the current hydroelectric dams.

The Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program has a number of measures to improve salmon survival in the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The Council also heard from officials of the Chelan and Grant county public utilities, which operate other mid-Columbia dams. Those utilities plan to test surface passage facilities to improve juvenile salmon survival at Rocky Reach and Wanapum dams by next spring, in time for the 1995 salmon migration.



Meetings

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Council meetings: September 13-15 in Jackson, Wyoming; *Note:* The Council may hold a meeting September 20 and 21 to continue work on the amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Call the central office for more details. October 11-13 at the Ramada Inn, Governor House, in Olympia, Washington; November 8-10 in Missoula, Montana.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: Call the central office for date, time and location.

BPA Operations Executive Committee: September 16 at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Generating Resource Advisory Committee: The kickoff meeting of the Generating Resource Advisory Committee for the revision of the Council's power plan will be held in September at the Council central office. Call the central office for date, time and an agenda, and to be placed on the mailing list for information regarding future meetings.

Council working session: The Council working session will be September 27 through September 29 in Portland, Oregon. Call the Council central office for an agenda.

Columbia's Communities: Our Region in the Twentieth Century

A conference from the Center for Columbia River History will focus on the environmental and economic future of the Columbia River Basin and the part communities have played in the history of the region.

The conference will be September 9-11 in Kennewick, Washington. For more information, call the Center for Columbia River History, 206-586-0219.

Council will take up new operating rules for Montana dams this fall

The Northwest Power Planning Council will take up new operating rules for Hungry Horse and Libby dams in Montana as part of its fish and wildlife amendments this fall, Chair R. Ted Bottiger of Washington said.

Montana Council members Stan Grace and John Etchart sought to have the issue considered sooner in a separate amendment process so the new operating procedures, if approved by the Council, could be in place as soon as possible. But the Council voted 4-4 on that proposal, and so it failed. The Council will take up the issue as it works on amendments to the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. That amendment process is scheduled to be completed in December.

The new operating procedures are designed to protect fish and wildlife populations by limiting drawdowns of the reservoirs behind Hungry Horse and Libby dams. Under current operations, reservoir levels can fluctuate widely to meet demands for hydropower generation and to aid migration of salmon and steelhead downstream. "This is not a concern just for these two reservoirs," Bottiger said. "We are concerned about the impact of reservoir operations on fish and wildlife throughout the Columbia River Basin."

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #215

The Virginian Lodge
750 West Broadway
Jackson Hole, Wyoming
307-733-2792

September 13-15, 1994

Tuesday, September 13

	2 - 2:15 p.m.	**Opening statements.**
1.	2:15 - 5 p.m.	**Council deliberation and decision on entering rulemaking on amendment of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program:** Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; and fish and wildlife division staff.

Wednesday, September 14

	8:30 - 11:30 a.m.	**Continuation of Council deliberation and decision on entering rulemaking on amendment of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.**
2.	1:30 - 2 p.m.	**Briefing on proposed Wyoming wind project:** representative from PacifiCorp; and Barrett Stambler, Kenetech/Windpower.
3.	2 - 2:30 p.m.	**Briefing by Lower Valley Power & Light on local conservation efforts:** Winston G. Allred, director of power marketing.
4.	2:45 - 4 p.m.	**Council decision on releasing issue paper on environmental externalities:** Dick Watson, director, power planning division, and Ken Corum, economist, demand forecasting.
5.	4 - 4:15 p.m.	**Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan.** If appropriate, the Council may need to take actions regarding implementation of particular measures. Ed Sheets, Dick Watson, Rick Applegate, and Doug Marker, planning associate.
6.	4:15 - 4:45 p.m.	**Council business** · Council decision on DSI participation in the Fish Operations Executive Committee · Approval of Response to Comments on mainstem hypotheses rule · Approval of contract for biological modeling · Approval of contract for extending load shape forecasting · Approval of minutes
7.	4:45 p.m.	**Public comment on issue paper on exploring additional power planning considerations (94-30).**

Thursday, September 15

	8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	**Continuation of Council deliberation and decision on entering rulemaking on amendment of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.**

Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows. The times listed for specified agenda items, and the order of those items, are approximate and are subject to change.
Unless otherwise noted, Council meetings are open to the public.

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Comment deadlines

Recommendations for amendments to the resident fish, wildlife and other non-anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-43): **November 17, 1994.**

UPDATE

Executive Director: Ed Sheets
Public Affairs Director: Steve Crow
Editor: Judi Hertz
Art Director: Stephen Sasser

Update is printed with soy-based inks on recycled paper that is 40 percent de-inked fiber, including 8 percent post-consumer waste.

Publications available

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NOTE: When requesting a publication, please use the publication number.

(94-46) Issue paper: Sustaining conservation in the era of competition.

(94-45) Oregon Natural Resources Council protected areas petition.

(94-44) Briefing paper: Harvest management.

(94-43) Request for recommendations for amendments to the resident fish, wildlife and non-anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(94-42) Amendment recommendations received for the anadromous sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(94-41) Final: Direct use of natural gas: analysis of policy options.

(94-40) Mainstem reservoir drawdown alternatives to improve salmon survival.

(94-39A) Appendices to 94-39.

(94-39) Water management opportunities within the Snake River Basin.

(94-38) Briefing paper: Non-storage alternatives for securing water for salmon flows in the Snake River.

(94-37) Briefing paper: Detailed fishery operating plan.

(94-36) Briefing paper: Salmon and steelhead habitat and production issues.

(94-35) Draft briefing paper: Extra-regional transactions to mitigate fish flow operations.

(94-34) Briefing paper: The effect of electricity demand growth on river resources.

(94-33) Briefing paper: Summer flow in the Columbia River for fisheries enhancement.

(94-32) Briefing paper: Columbia Basin fishery planning models.

Volume 11, Number 10

UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

October 1994

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Power Council seeks comments on fish and wildlife program amendments

The Northwest Power Planning Council is moving ahead with amendments to its Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program on an ambitious schedule designed to have a new program in place by next spring, when juvenile salmon will be migrating to the Pacific Ocean.

On September 29, the Council released a package of more than 100 potential amendments to the salmon and steelhead chapters of the fish and wildlife program. These will be available for public comment through November 10. During that time, the Council will conduct public hearings in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington, and accept written comments. A final decision is expected in mid-December, in time for measures in the new program to be implemented for the spring 1995 migration of juvenile salmon to the Pacific Ocean.

"When we last amended our program in 1992, it was clear that the immediate actions we put in place would not be sufficient to rebuild salmon runs," Council Chairman R. Ted Bottiger said. "We now have the results of a number of engineering and biological studies that we called for in 1992, and we have proposed additional actions in these amendments based on the new information. These are complex, expensive proposals, and we expect them to be controversial. That's why we are seeking the broadest possible public review."

The Council's program suffered a setback earlier this month, when the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the 1992 Strategy for Salmon, which comprises the salmon and steelhead measures in the program, for reconsideration by the Council on several points. At the time of the Court's ruling, the Council already had begun a process that would lead to reviewing and amending the Strategy.

Responding to the Court's opinion, the Council consulted with the region's fish agencies and Indian tribes on the question of whether to go ahead with the current amendment process or start over. There was strong support among these fishery managers to proceed. The Council also met with representatives of environmental groups, utilities and industries. Again, the consensus was that the Council should continue, not start over by soliciting new amendment recommendations. Starting over would mean that a new program likely would not be in place until June 1995, too late to have an impact on the spring migration of juvenile salmon to the Pacific Ocean.

The draft amendments to the fish and wildlife program are available for public comment through November 10, 1994. For a copy, call the Council's central office, 800-222-3355, and request documents 94-48 and 94-47.

Council to hold hearings on draft amendment document

The Council will hold hearings around the region on the draft amendment document (document 94-48) which will amend the anadromous fish chapters of the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Hearings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

October 12, 7 p.m. in Olympia, Washington at the Ramada Inn, Governor House.

October 13, 2 p.m. in Olympia, Washington, at the Ramada Inn, Governor House.

October 13, 7 p.m., in Astoria, Oregon, at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, Kern Room.

October 17, 6 p.m., in La Grande, Oregon, at the Eastern Oregon State College, Hoke Center.

October 17, 6 p.m. in Spokane, Washington, at the Sheraton Hotel.

October 21, 4 p.m. in Richland, Washington, at the Hanford House.

October 24, 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Boise, Idaho, at the Boise Centre on the Grove.

October 26, 4 to 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., in Portland, Oregon, at the Council central offices.

October 31, 5 p.m., in Wenatchee, Washington, at the Red Lion.

November 1, 6 p.m., in Eugene, Oregon, at the Eugene Water and Electric Board Training Room.

November 1, 7 p.m., in Libby, Montana, at the Venture Inn, Viking Room.

November 2, 5 p.m., in Bigfork, Montana, at the Kootenai Galleries Community Room.

November 8, 9 or 10, during the Council meeting in Missoula, Montana.

For further information, call the Council central office.

All Council offices, except for the two Washington offices, will be closed Monday, October 10, in observance of Columbus Day.

Council seeks comments on fish and wildlife program amendments

At its September working session, the Northwest Power Planning Council voted to release for public comment a number of draft amendments to the salmon and steelhead chapters of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

Key points in the amendments include:

Harvest

- Reduce Canadian interceptions of Columbia Basin salmon.
  Adopt a more conservative harvest strategy, including an option to continue the 1994 ocean harvest restrictions.
- Adopt 50-percent maximum exploitation rate for fall chinook salmon and an effort to reduce that further, perhaps to 35 percent.

Mainstem

- Seek comments on the following five flow options:
- **Option One** generally provides for improvements in transportation of juvenile fish and seeks to reduce predation on and competition with naturally spawning salmon populations.
- **Option Two** encompasses actions to improve both inriver migration and transportation as part of an adaptive-management comparison of both. Actions include taking John Day reservoir to minimum operating pool and additional barges.
  Option Three calls for immediate improvements in river migration conditions . This option includes reservoir drawdown measures that were recommended primarily by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
  Option Four includes flow recommendations primarily from the lower Columbia treaty tribes and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, such as natural river or comparable drawdown of the lower Snake River reservoirs, an end to smolt transportation, and evaluations of operating several dams at near spillway crest levels, including the John Day, McNary and Wanapum projects.
- **Option Five** comprises actions proposed primarily by environmental groups, particularly Idaho Rivers United, including 1995 drawdown of lower Snake dams, trapping and hauling adult fish until fish ladders are modified for drawdown conditions, minimum operating pool at John Day reservoir and adopting spill as the primary means of dam passage for migrating juvenile salmon and steelhead.
- Several of these options would use spill to improve juvenile fish passage at dams but monitor and abate gas supersaturation problems and improve spill efficiency.
- Emphasize enhanced research on the flow/velocity/survival relationship.

Habitat

- Implement detailed habitat performance standards, including water temperature and water quality standards.
- Accelerate diversion screening from $6 million per year to $15 million per year with enhanced contributions from all parties.
- Initiate water leasing demonstrations in four watersheds.
- Accelerate local watershed planning efforts.

Production

- Implement immediate actions to improve estuary conditions.
- Implement a cost-shared program to reduce noise in hatchery raceways.
  Proceed with the Yakima, Nez Perce and Hood River/Pelton Ladder supplementation projects.
  Develop an emergency contingency plan for supplementing Snake River fall chinook salmon.
- Identify actions to improve lamprey populations.

Other

- Evaluate transferring implementation of the program to an agency other than Bonneville.
- Broaden the role of the Council to include watershed planning.
- Implement new operating rules for Hungry Horse and Libby reservoirs.
- Implement lake Pend Oreille elevation test to determine impact on kokanee.
- Set biological objectives for program measures. Four alternatives for developing these objectives are proposed for comment.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: **October 11-13** at the Ramada Inn, Governor House, in Olympia, Washington; **November 8-10** in Missoula, Montana. **December 13-15** in Portland, Oregon.

Columbia/Snake River Drawdown Committee: **October 14** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: **October 21** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Generating Resource Advisory Committee: **October 18** at the Council central office, 10 a.m.

Council working session: The Council working session will be October 24 through October 26 in Portland, Oregon. Call the Council central office for an agenda.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #218

Ramada Inn-Governor House
621 S.W. Capitol Way
Olympia, Washington
206-352-7700
October 11-13, 1994

Tuesday, October 11

		Opening statements
1.	1 - 2:45 p.m.	**Panel on the state of the science and policy on Global Climate Change:** Dr. Irving Mintzer, Center for Global Change, University of Maryland; and Tom Wilson, Electric Power Research Institute.
2.	3 - 5:30 p.m.	**Briefing on river rate and biological analysis, biological objectives, and criteria for an adequate, efficient, economic and reliable power supply:** Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; and fish and wildlife division staff; and Dick Watson, director, power planning division, and power planning division staff.

Wednesday, October 12

	8:30 - 9:15 a.m.	**Continuation of briefing on river rate and biological analysis, biological objectives, and criteria for an adequate, efficient, economic and reliable power supply.**
3.	9:15 - 9:45 a.m.	**Update on Congressional appropriations:** Steve Crow, director, public affairs division.
4.	10 - 10:45 a.m.	**Council discussion of Bonneville fish and wildlife budget:** Rick Applegate and Doug Marker, planning associate.
5.	10:45- 11 a.m.	**Adoption of response to comments in resident fish substitution rulemaking.** Rick Applegate and John Marsh, system planning coordinator.
6.	11 - 11:30 a.m.	**Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan.** If appropriate, the Council may need to take actions regarding implementation of particular measures. Ed Sheets, Dick Watson, Rick Applegate, and Doug Marker.
7.	1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	**Briefing on the Fort Lewis Conservation Program:** Jake Fey, Tacoma City Light.
8.	2:15 - 3 p.m.	**Briefing on power sales contracts:** Dick Watson, director, power planning division; Wally Gibson, manager, system analysis and generation; and Bill Hannaford, senior counsel.
9.	3 - 5 p.m.	**Panel on Bonneville conservation reinvention, Council discussion and potential action**: Ed Sheets; Dick Watson; Sue Hickey, Chief Operating Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, and other panelists to be announced.
10.	7 p.m.	**Public hearing on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.**

Thursday, October 13

11.	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	**Briefing on the System Operation Review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and others:** Witt Anderson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Rich Moy, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Lori Bodi, American Rivers; Karen Garrison, Natural Resources Defense Council; Phil Thor, Bonneville Power Administration; John Dooley, Bureau of Reclamation; Bruce Lovelin, Columbia River Alliance; and representatives from other parties.
12.	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	**Discussion with Bonneville Power Administration on Bonneville's proposed Business Plan, fish and wildlife reinvention and corporation legislation:** Jack Robertson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration.
13.	1:30 - 2 p.m.	**Council business:** — Election of officers and annual business meeting — Federal Advisory Committee Act changes — Environmental Defense Fund contract
	2 p.m.	**Public hearing on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.**

The Council will hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing internal personnel matters.
Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows. The times listed for specified agenda items, and the order of those items, are approximate and are subject to change.
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Fax: 509-335-7226

Comment deadlines

Exploring additional power planning considerations (94-30): **October 15, 1994.**

Sustaining conservation in the era of competion (94-46): **October 28, 1994.**

Appendices to the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-47): **November 10, 1994.**

Draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-48): **November 10, 1994.**

Recommendations for amendments to the resident fish, wildlife and other non-anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-43): **November 17, 1994.**

UPDATE

Executive Director: Ed Sheets
Public Affairs Director: Steve Crow
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NOTE: When requesting a publication, please use the publication number.

(94-50) Accounting for environmental externalities in the power plan.

(94-49) Fiscal Year 1996 budget and Fiscal Year 1995 revisions.

(94-48) Draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(94-47) Appendices to the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

(94-46) Issue paper: Sustaining conservation in the era of competition.

(94-45) Oregon Natural Resources Council protected areas petition.

(94-44) Briefing paper: Harvest management.

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(94-37) Briefing paper: Detailed fishery operating plan.

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Volume 11, Number 11

UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

November 1994

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Council elects Webb chairman and Duncan vice-chairman

At the October Council meeting in Olympia, Washington, the Council elected Jay Webb of Idaho as its new chairman, and Angus Duncan of Oregon as vice-chairman.

Webb, who was appointed by Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus in 1992, was an Idaho state representative from 1966 through 1969 and also has served as attorney to the Idaho State Senate and Boise County prosecuting attorney. Before joining the Council, he was a founding partner of the Boise law firm of Givens, Pursley, Webb and Huntley.

Duncan, who was appointed to the Council in 1990, has worked in energy management and wind energy industries and was director of energy policy for the U.S. Department of Transportation under President Carter.

Jay Webb

Congress increases fish and wildlife funding

At the October Council meeting in Olympia, Washington, Chairman Ted Bottiger announced that Congress voted this year to increase the amount of money the nation's taxpayers contribute to the salmon recovery effort in the Columbia River Basin.

In 1995, the nation's taxpayers will contribute about $110 million to salmon rebuilding efforts in the Columbia Basin. About $60 million of the total will pay for improvements at the hydropower dams, and this amount will be reimbursed to the federal Treasury over time by the region's electricity ratepayers. The $110 million is in addition to Bonneville Power Administration expenditures for fish and wildlife enhancement.

"While the region's electricity ratepayers pay for most of the salmon recovery work, there is an important, and growing, contribution by the nation's taxpayers," Bottiger said. "I am pleased, and the region's ratepayers should be pleased, that Congress recognizes that the nation shares the burden of salmon recovery with our region."

Earlier this year, the Council testified before Congress on additional funds that were needed in the federal agency budgets for salmon rebuilding in the Pacific Northwest. Congress appropriated money to the budgets of eight federal agencies whose activities impact fish and wildlife in the Northwest. These include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Bureau of Land

Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Soil Conservation Service.

Highlights from the federal agency budgets for Fiscal Year 1995:

National Marine Fisheries Service: $12 million is budgeted for federal Mitchell Act fish hatcheries, and $6.5 million for installation of water diversion screens in salmon habitat. The screening money for 1995 is almost double the amount budgeted in 1993. Congress also directed that $1.5 million of the hatchery money be spent upriver of The Dalles Dam to enhance tribal fisheries.

Corps of Engineers: Congress included funding — about $36 million — to continue ongoing improvements to juvenile fish bypass facilities at the federal dams, calling for aggressive efforts to improve the effectiveness of these facilities. Congress also directed the Corps to design and test a prototype system at The Dalles Dam to pass juvenile fish over the spillway rather than through the dam's turbines.

Soil Conservation Service: Some $3.6 million is available this year for improving water quality and quantity, and riparian zones, in Columbia River tributaries.

Forest Service: Funding has more than doubled over 1993 levels for salmon habitat protection and watershed restoration in the national forests.

Council offices will be closed Friday, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, November 24, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

Hearings continue on draft amendment document

The Council is holding hearings around the region on the draft amendment document (document 94-48) which will amend the anadromous fish chapters of the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Hearings continue as follows:

November 1, 6 p.m., in Eugene, Oregon, at the Eugene Water and Electric Board Training Room.

November 1, 7 p.m., in Libby, Montana, at the Venture Inn, Viking Room.

November 1, 7 p.m., in Moscow, Idaho, at the University Inn.

November 2, 5 p.m., in Bigfork, Montana, at the Kootenai Galleries Community Room.

November 2, 7 p.m., in Sun Valley, Idaho, at the Sun Valley Lodge.

November 7, 7 p.m., in Idaho Falls, Idaho, at the Holiday Inn Westbank

November 9, 4 p.m., during the Council meeting in Missoula, Montana, at the Village Red Lion.

The Council expects to adopt the anadromous fish amendments in mid-December. For further information, call the Council central office.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: **November 8-10** in Missoula, Montana; **November 16-17** at Council offices in Portland, Oregon; **December 6-8** at Council offices in Portland, Oregon; and **December 13-15** at Council offices in Portland, Oregon.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: **November 4** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Generating Resource Advisory Committee: **November 15** at the Council central office building, room 280, 10 a.m.

Conservation Acquisition Task Force: **November 9** at the Council central office, 10 a.m.

COUNCIL MEETING #220
Council Offices
Portland, Oregon
November 16-17, 1994
8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, November 16

1.	8:30 - 10 a.m.	**Status report and potential Council action on Bonneville Power Administration's proposed conservation reinvention:** Ed Sheets, executive director; and Dick Watson, director, power planning division; Sue Hickey, chief operating officer, Bonneville; and Howard Perry, manager for energy services/conservation, Bonneville.
2.	10:15-11:30 a.m.	**Consultation and Council deliberation on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program:** Ed Sheets; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; and John Volkman, legal counsel.
	1:30-2:45 p.m.	**Continued consultation and Council deliberation on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program.**
3.	3 p.m.	**Public hearing and Council discussion of proposed Bonneville Corporation legislation:** Ed Sheets and Bill Hannaford, senior counsel.

Thursday, November 17

8:30-9:30 a.m.	**Continued Council discussion of proposed Bonneville Corporation legislation.**
9:30 a.m-4 p.m.	**Continued consultation and Council deliberation on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program.**

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #219
Village Red Lion Inn
100 Madison
Missoula, Montana
Phone: 406-728-3100 Fax: 406-728-2530
November 8-10, 1994

Tuesday, November 8

Opening statements.

1. 1-1:30 p.m. **Briefing by Western Montana Electric Generating & Transmission Cooperative, Inc.:** Bill Drummond, manager.
2. 1:30-2:30 p.m. **Briefing by Columbia Falls Aluminum Company:** John Cook, vice president of operations and general manager.
3. 2:45-3:15 p.m. **Report on power sales contracts negotiations:** Dick Watson, director, power planning division, and Wally Gibson, manager, systems analysis.
4. 3:30-4 p.m. **Briefing on issue paper on Direct Service Industries:** Wally Gibson.
5. 4 p.m. **Public comment on issue paper on environmental externalities.**

Wednesday, November 9

6. 8:30-10 a.m. **Update on river, rate and biological analyses in the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program:** Rick Applegate, director, fish & wildlife division; Jim Ruff, hydrologist; John Fazio, power system analyst, and Chip McConnaha, senior fisheries scientist.
7. 10:15-11:30 a.m. **Public hearing on proposed Bonneville corporation legislation.**
8. 1:30-3:45 p.m. **Consultation on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program.** These consultations will cover general comments on the amendments. Call the Public Affairs Division if you would like to participate. The Council is specifically seeking comment on:
   - setting biological objectives;
   - the role of transportation;
   - the use of artificial production;
   - the impact of flows on resident fish;
   - balancing the protection, mitigation and enhancement of fish and wildlife with an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply.
9. 4 p.m. **Public hearing on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.**

Thursday, November 10

10. 8:30-9 a.m. **Staff report on implementation of measures in the fish and wildlife program and power plan.** If appropriate, the Council may take actions regarding implementation of particular measures. Ed Sheets, Dick Watson, Rick Applegate, and Doug Marker, senior policy coordinator.
11. 9-9:30 a.m. **Council business**
    —Adoption of minutes
    9:30 a.m. **Continued consultations on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program.**

Public comment will be taken at the end of each agenda item, as time allows.
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Comment deadlines

Appendices to the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-47): **November 10, 1994.**

Draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-48): **November 10, 1994.**

Recommendations for amendments to the resident fish, wildlife and other non-anadromous fish sections of the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (94-43): **Comment deadline extended to December 9, 1994.**

Issue paper on draft Bonneville incorporation legislation (94-53): **November 25, 1994.**

Accounting for environmental externalities in the power plan (94-50): **December 2, 1994.**

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(94-40) Mainstem reservoir drawdown alternatives to improve salmon survival.

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Volume 11, Number 12

UPDATE

Northwest Power Planning Council

December 1994

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Council completes hearings on salmon measures

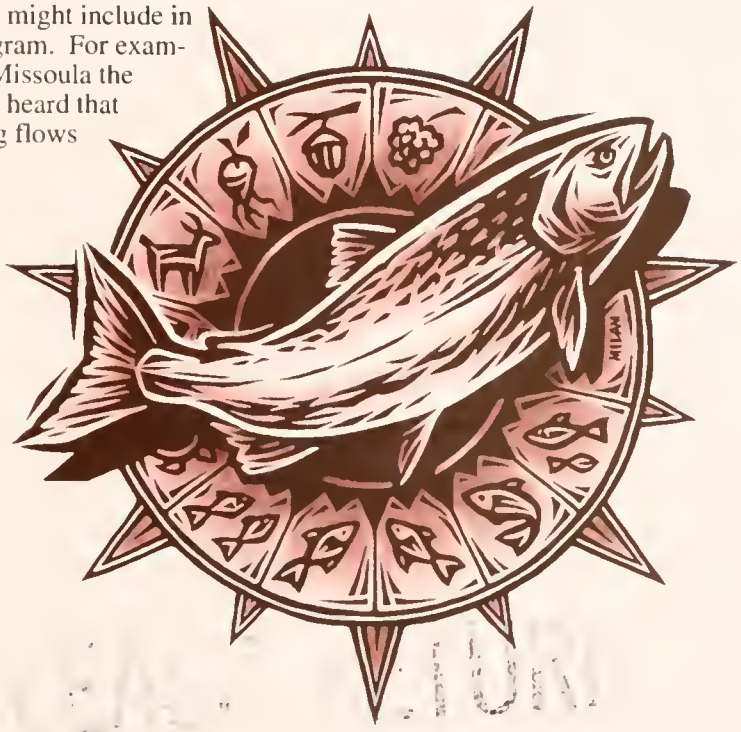
On Wednesday, November 9, in Missoula, Montana, the Council held its final public hearing on new proposals to improve salmon survival in the Columbia River Basin.

Council members heard increasingly familiar themes at the hearings held from Olympia, Washington, to Idaho Falls, Idaho; from Eugene, Oregon to Missoula, Montana and many cities in between: Help the salmon but don't hurt other fish and wildlife in the process, pick the highest-benefit actions based on the best available scientific knowledge, and act quickly but not recklessly.

At the Missoula hearing, as with many of the other hearings the Council conducted, commentors were concerned about local impacts of the actions the Council might include in the program. For example, in Missoula the Council heard that boosting flows downstream to help salmon migrate to the ocean could impact fish and wildlife that live in and around the rivers and reservoirs in Northwestern Montana, which has no salmon but where rivers flow eventually into the Columbia. One proposal, favored by many of the dozen or so who spoke at the Missoula hearing, would impose new operating guidelines at Libby and Hungry Horse dams limiting how far down the reservoirs behind those dams could be drawn to boost downstream flows.

Chairman Webb resigns; Andrus appoints Brunelle

As *Update* was going to press, Governor Cecil Andrus announced the resignation of Jay Webb. Governor Andrus has appointed Andy Brunelle to replace Webb. Brunelle has served as Governor Andrus' natural resource aide for the past 6 1/2 years.



Council continues review of fish and wildlife program amendments

The Northwest Power Planning Council is moving ahead with amendments to the anadromous fish measures in the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

The Council conducted 18 public hearings around the Northwest in October and early November and received more than 700 written comments, some totaling more than 100 pages, by the November 10 deadline. Since then the Council and its staff have been working on reviewing the comments and preparing draft final amendments for consideration this month.

Because some issues the Council is considering are very controversial, such as Columbia and Snake River flows, reservoir drawdowns and transportation of juvenile fish past the dams in barges and trucks, many commentors urged the Council to consider adopting preferred alternatives for those measures and then seeking additional public comment before making a final decision.

The Council is scheduled to discuss the amendments at two upcoming meetings. The first is December 6-9, and the second is December 13-15. Both meetings will be at the Council headquarters in Portland.

Council offices will be closed Monday, December 26, in observance of Christmas, and Monday, December 31, in observance of New Year's.

Meetings

The following meetings are open to the public unless otherwise noted. Call the Council central office to receive an agenda. Meeting times, locations and agenda items are changed occasionally. To confirm, call the Council central office before the meeting.

Council meetings: **December 6-9** at Council offices in Portland, Oregon; and **December 13-15** at Council offices in Portland, Oregon; **January 10-12, 1995,** at the Red Lion Downtowner in Boise, Idaho; **February 8-10, 1995,** at the Quality Inn in Pullman, Washington.

Fish Operations Executive Committee: **December 2** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Generating Resource Advisory Committee: **December 20** at the Council central office, 10 a.m.

Demand Forecasting Advisory Committee: **December 16** at the Council central office, 10 a.m.

System Analysis Advisory Committee: **December 5** at the Council central office, 9 a.m.

Council reviews Bonneville corporation legislation

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to become a government corporation. In December 1993, Bonneville released a draft bill and hearings were held across the region. As a result of comment and further analysis, a number of changes were incorporated into the proposed legislation. On October 11, Bonneville released a new draft. The legislation has not yet been introduced in Congress.

Bonneville asked the Council to review the new proposal. In considering the December 1993 draft of this legislation, the four Northwest Governors also asked the Council to undertake a process of regional review, with specific directives. The Governors said the legislation must reflect the values the region embraced when Congress passed the Northwest Power Act: to assure the region of an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply that maintains environmental quality, a priority for electricity conservation and renewable resources, and the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of Columbia River Basin fish and wildlife resources. The Governors also emphasized that Bonneville's accountability to the people of the Northwest not be diminished by the legislation.

The Council published Issue Paper 94-53 "Draft Legislation to Make Bonneville a Government Corporation" to highlight some major issues in the legislation and to provide a general background for regional discussion. This paper builds on the issue paper the Council published in December 1993 (Bonneville Corporation discussion paper, document 93-25). The fundamental issues remain much the same, although modifications made in the proposed legislation may give those issues a different focus.

The Council held two public hearings on the draft legislation. Close of comment on issue paper 94-53 was November 25. The Council will again consider the corporation legislation at its December meeting in Portland.

Council plans renewables forum

The Council will hold the first "Northwest Renewable Forum: Building a sustainable market in a new utility world" on February 14, 1995, at the Governor Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

The forum will review the status of renewable energy resources in the Pacific Northwest; define goals for renewables in the Northwest's power scene, explore the challenges to development, and brainstorm ways to create and sustain a market for renewables.

For more information, call the Council's central office.

AGENDA

COUNCIL MEETING #221
Council Offices
Portland, Oregon
December 6-9, 1994

9 a.m. **Opening statements**

1. **Council deliberation on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program:** Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; John Volkman, legal counsel; and fish and wildlife staff.
2. **Council deliberation on proposed Bonneville Corporation legislation:** Ed Sheets; John Volkman; Steve Crow, director, public affairs division; and Bill Hannaford, senior counsel.
3. **Status report and Council deliberation on Bonneville Power Administration's proposed conservation reinvention:** Ed Sheets and Dick Watson, director, power division.
4. **Council business:**
   -- Washington model watershed resolution.
   -- Minutes.

   Executive Session: The Council will hold an executive session to consider matters protectible under the civil litigation exception.

The Council meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on December 7, 8 and 9.
The Council may continue through noon on Friday, December 9, if necessary. Please call the central office for an update on when agenda items will begin.

COUNCIL MEETING #222
Council offices
Portland, Oregon
December 13-15, 1994

December 13

9 a.m. **Continued Council deliberation on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (if needed):** Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; John Volkman, legal counsel; and fish and wildlife staff.

December 14

8:30 a.m. **Public comment on issue paper 94-50: Accounting for environmental externalities in the Power Plan.** If you wish to comment on the environmental externalities issue paper, please call the central office.

Continued Council deliberation on the draft anadromous fish amendments to the 1994 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (if needed): Ed Sheets, executive director; Rick Applegate, director, fish and wildlife division; John Volkman, legal counsel; and fish and wildlife staff.

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